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Veterans For Peace Board of Directors

Approved Meeting Minutes

January 2023 - Present

For View Only Access at www.veteransforpeace.org

Veterans For Peace
Board of Directors
Saturday, March 16 2024
Minutes

PRESENT: President Susan Schnall, VP Josh Shurley, Treasurer Mike Tork, Secretary Paul Cox (notes), Mike Wong, Ellen Barfield, Gerry Condon, Stephen Zollman, Ellen Davidson, Nick Mottern, Nya Anderson, Matt Southworth. National Director Mike Ferner. Absent: Kelly Wadsworth.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ann Wright, Art Roche, Arthur Ratcliffe, Barry, Becky Luening, Bill Tiwald, Bob Keilbach, Chris Antal, Clayton Tye, David Cooley, Doug Rawlings, Ed Brighton, Gary Butterfield, Gerald Hassett, Gerry Werthan, Gil, Jeffrey Humfeld, Jim Brown, Joe Marcikowski, John Amidon, John Spitzberg, Ken Mayers, Kenneth Baer, Larry Orr, Libby Frank, Michael Cervantes, Michael Kramer, Mike Marceau, Munjo Yu, Nancy River, Paul Edward Gringas, Rachel Clark, Ray, Rick Staggenborg, Robert Rhudy, Scott Johnson, Shane Meserve, Steve Morse, Susan Lamont, Thomas Leonard, Tim Farley, Tina Jayroe, VFP 757, William Hopkins, Woody, "Somebody in Korean"--(58 participants at peak)

Meeting opened: 12:40 PM ET
Videos were played of the Statement of Purpose and Indigenous Worldview
Public Comment:

- **Bob Rhudy:** Saw VFP's job opening announcement, like it, and will send it out to some folks who might be interested.
- **Gary Butterfield:** CCMP will do joint events with 350.org in a groundbreaking collaboration on militarism. Actions will include protesting military air shows (of which there will be 65 this year). He urged people to attend the event by Zoom on **Mar 26, Noon ET, 9 am PT**. To register: bit.ly/protest-airshows FMI: garyvfp@gmail.com
- **Ann Wright:** Thanks to everyone who went to DC to lobby Congress this past week. Thanks to Ellen Davidson for the new T-Shirt, VFP–Veterans Against Genocide
- **Paul Cox:** announced the next VFP Chapter 160 tour, Oct 11–27. If you are vaguely interested, FMI: Paulcox890@comcast.net
- **Susan Schnall:** asked people to present ideas for the upcoming August convention.

Board meeting opened: 1:00PM with **Checkins**

Minutes: February 17, 2024. Motion Gerry, Second Enya: Approved
Agenda: Motion Matt, second Mike Wong: Approved

Finance Report, Mike Tork: Presented the 2024 Budget and the P&L for February

- Current finances: Checking: **$132k**. Restricted: **$21k.** Savings: **$31k**. Ed Jones: **$36k**. Zinn: **$27** to be reduced by end of month by $8k (Deported Vets and Fresno Chapter Podcast Equipment).
- Opening additional CD's in Amalgamated Bank (for their socially conscious investing) is still in process.

- Mentioned the Swarthmore Peace Collection of VFP's papers that are available online and worth perusing.

National Director's Report, Mike Ferner:

- Sally Alice Thompson Fund: Motion Ellen, second Gerry: "A motion to establish the fund: that this Board of Directors, in an open meeting on Mar 17, 2024 approves and establishes on the records of the Veterans For Peace, Inc., a separate fund to be known as The Sally-Alice Thompson Legacy Fund administered by the Finance Committee. Interest generated by the Fund's investments may be transferred to the organization's operating accounts by recommendation of the Committee. However, the principal of the Fund may be expended only upon a vote of a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at an open meeting of the Board of Directors." Passed. Mike suggested that the Fund could be used as a place to park planned giving and bequests. The interest income, could be spent for capacity building–to increase membership and Chapter work and to improve communications.
- National will send out a Call To Action (CTA) this week about Gaza
- Casey Stinemetz will stay in her ¾-time position as membership director through June.
- We now have wallet-sized cards with QR code available from National here: https://www.veteransforpeace.org/download_file/5560 that can be used to get new memers.
- Urges chapter to organize the April 4 MLK memorial, possibly with a reading of his Beyond War speech. File with ideas for Spring Actions for Chapters: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xr2rN7kK1tcHQsxY7M4dgA6eksys7II1OPtvDJ8oR14/edit#heading=h.bc4s5yitlctf
- A Search Committee has volunteered to work on finding a replacement for Mike Ferner as National Director. Nick Mottern, Ellen Davidson, Matt Southworth, Gerry Condon, and Mike Wong comprise the committee and will meet next week. Suggestion for advertising the position from Shane Meserve in Chat: www.idealist.org.
- Recommended Uncle Devin's video about moving DoD money out of 'defense'. Also, recommended Peter Coyote's 4-minute video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bPMxwVfIKhs&feature=youtu.be

Development Committee, Matt Southworth: committee met Feb 26 that included Rhudy, Zool, Dirk, Thomas, and Bruce. They have split into three task forces: Data Analysis, Solicitation and Stewardship, and Planned Giving. Next meeting on Monday, Mar 18.

Transformative Justice Committee, Kelly Wadsworth's written report: "TJC has 5 members and has met twice since the last board meeting. We are reviewing the TJC webpage and aim to have it up back up on the website within a month or so. At our next meeting we plan to review the steps and process for referrals as well as hand-off procedures to the Membership committee as well as the Board. We are exploring how to provide some best-practices education to all of VFP. We are always accepting new members so if you'd like to join us, please reach out."

Membership Committee, Josh Shurley: Thanked Ken, who is stepping down, for his help with the committee. They are meeting first Wed of each month. Motion Josh, second Mike Wong, to approve creation of two new chapters: Norfolk, VA, Chapter 757 (their Area Code). And Chapter 122 in Auburn, CA. See written report, **Appendix 1**.

Peace Walk, Tarak Kauff: Thanked Nick Mottern for sitting in Jim McGovern's office. The Peace Walk will start May 7 in Algonquin, ME, and move to formal kickoff in NH. The Walk still needs donations. He expressed that we could benefit from participation by Quakers, Menonites, Buddhists, and anyone who supports all life, the environment, and peace. Ellen and Tarak just bought a 12-passenger van for the walk. They still need people to assist with finding places to stay, venues, etc. In response to Nick Mottern's comments, Tarak indicated that Justice for Palestine will likely be the focus for the Peace Walk since the war on Gaza is likely to be ongoing, but that a ceasefire in Ukraine is the other main topic. FMI, www.peacewalk2024.org

Communications Committee, Gerry Condon: he showed his T-shirt commemorating the Irish struggles created by and worn in memory of George Johnson. Gerry's written report is attached as **Appendix 2.**

Executive Committee, Susan Schnall:
There will be two zoom meeting on Gaza on Mar 17, and April 17, here?

1. Report from Washington, DC: several members met in DC to walk the Hill, and visited the spot where Aaron Bushnell self-immolated in front of the Israeli Embassy.
2. Zinn Fund Grants approved:
    a. Deported Veterans
    b. Fresno Proposal for equipment for podcasts
3. Recommendation that VFP donate $2,000 to the Palestine Children's Fund in memory of Aaron Bushnell. Motion Gerry Condon, second Nick Mottern. Passed. Mike Ferner promised to publicize this donation to allied organizations.
4. Start organizing for conventions 2024 (virtual) and 2025 (in person)
5. VFP Statement regarding attacks on progressive organizations by the press and politicians
6. Executive Director/National Director position posted, notice below as Appendix ZZZ

Next Board Meeting: April 20, 2024, 12:40 pm, ET
Adjournment: Motion Mike Tork, Second Gerry Condon. Passed at 2:56 ET

Appendix 1
Membership Committee Report, Mar 16, 2024

The Membership Committee is continuing efforts with improving how we orient new members, retain existing members, and reach out to lapsed members, while working through database issues.

· Welcome back Casey as Membership Coordinator. Expanded hours in order to help sort out our database issues and help get VFP Membership running smoothly.
· Immediate focus on orienting new members.
    - Have been averaging 60 members per month during the past quarter.
    - Committee is in the process of making phone calls/reaching out to new members each month. Each newly joined member will receive a call from one of us, asking about them and informing about projects, committee work, chapters, etc.
    - Someone from Membership will be on each monthly New Member call.
    - New Member Form to track these outreach efforts and gather useful membership data.
· Continued tracking, outreach to lapsed members. Will be organizing calls to lapsed members. Retention calls similar to welcoming calls
· Will have two annual membership drives: one in spring, one at Convention time.
· Someone from Membership will be on each Chapter Contacts call.

Josh Shurley, Co-Chair, Membership Committee, 3/16/2024

Appendix 2
Communications Committee Report
VFP Board Meeting, March 16, 2-24

The Communications Committee was established in order to facilitate coordination among the various VFP means of communication, including our printed newsletter – now twice a year, the VFP eNews – now twice a month, VFP Radio – weekly, the VFP Facebook page, social media and the VFP-All list serve – daily, and occasional eBlasts from the national office. VFP activists from all of these media are represented on the Communications Committee. I am serving as Board liaison and facilitator. We meet

monthly, 3d Monday. We have a listserve which includes VFP staff and volunteers, as well as the Executive Director Mike Ferner, Board president Susan Schnall, and Ellen Davidson from *Peace & Planet News.* Over the last few months, we have achieved considerable coordination and impressive output.

During the last two months of February and March, we have been particularly productive. First of all, the VFP eNews is truly outstanding. Becky Luening does a terrific job putting together an attractive and comprehensive newsletter that reflects a definite uptick in the activity of VFP chapters and members, particularly in response to the US-backed genocide in Gaza, as well as the twin existential threats of Climate Catastrophe and Nuclear War.

We have also been able to promote and build participation in special VFP events. The VFP *Warheads to Windmills* webinar, Feb 29, by our Nuclear Abolition Working Group, was a huge success. Over 300 people registered and 150 attended, which I think may be unprecedented outside of VFP Conventions. The large participation was directly the result of coordinated promotion on multiple platforms, including the VFP eNews, Facebook, VFP-All, and a VFP eBlast, thanks to Shelly Rockett in our national office. Probably VFP Radio as well. So, good job, everybody. We have begun to do similar promotion for a March 26 webinar by the VFP Climate and Militarism Project, co-presented with 350.org US, the largest climate organization in the U.S.

We are learning more about how to project VFP statements and actions into the media. I should say "alternative media" because the corporate media is really tough to crack. Progressive alternative media is gaining larger and larger audiences, however, so should not be taken lightly. Even progressive media needs to be approached systematically, including building relationships with the editors. When Veterans For Peace issues an important statement – such as calling for an end to US weapons shipments to Israel, only rarely will that entire statement be published. So we tried summarizing those statements in shorter press releases, and didn't have much luck with that either. Finally, we decided to develop that press release into a full-blown article, with the VFP statements embedded, and we began to get published more often.

For example, VFP Board Vice President Josh Shurley and I collaborated on an article decrying the hypocrisy of Biden's airdropping MRE's onto the beaches of Gaza, while continuing to supply the bombs that are still being dropped on Gaza, and failing to pressure Israel to open up border crossings for the massive aid that is needed to stave off famine. It was titled, *Veterans Are Not Fooled by Biden's Mixed Messages on Gaza.* We embedded in the article links to the VFP statement on the self-immolation of Aaron Bushnell, and the VFP letter to the State Department detailing the illegality of shipping arms to Israel while it was violating human rights on a massive scale. The article was published by *Popular Resistance, Common Dreams, Antiwar.com,* and *LA Progressive.*

Another article by Helen Jaccard and me, marking the 70th anniversary of the Castle Bravo nuclear test – the largest ever US test – was also published in *Peace & Planet News, Antiwar.com, Common Dreams* and *LA Progressive*. The article included a link to the website of VFP's *Golden Rule* anti-nuclear sailboat.

So writing and submitting timely articles and linking to VFP statements and projects appears to be effective way of making veterans' voices heard. Which tells me we should be cultivating a team of VFP writers.

But we are not giving up on the mainstream (corporate) media either. Renowned progressive media activist Norman Solomon has offered to do a media workshop for Veterans For Peace – how to break into the mass media. We are talking with Norman about doing a webinar with him sometime in April.

Finally, Ken Mayers has suggested that the task of VFP recruitment is something that might most effectively be shared by the Membership Committee and the Communications Committee. We will be discussing how best to do that.

Gerry Condon Communications Committee Chair

Post-meeting informal discussion of August Convention :

- Ken suggests that there be concurrent in-person regional conventions in a few locations. Mike Ferner is concerned about the staffing issues that will arise with multiple conventions.
- Dates for the convention have not yet been chosen.
- Ellen B suggested Chris Antal, and Joe Wiinikka-Lydon be called in for discussion of Moral Injury.
- From Chat for Convention: Reproductive rights/women's rights/MST. Support for Lejeune families and GIs. Update on Ukraine (Peace and Justice in Ukraine Coalition, perhaps). On Gaza use advisory board members as speakers (e.g. Hedges, Peled, Cohn, Nadar, Bacevich, etc.). Film *Israelism* (https://www.israelismfilm.com/screenings). Substantial strategy discussion. Outreach to other allied groups. Naomi Klein as speaker: https://www.redpepper.org.uk/global-politics/palestine-middle-east/the-iron-dome-is-global-and-so-is-the-resistance/
- Tarak: South African Foreign Minister, Nalleti Pandor, Italian Clare Daly Francesca Albanize,
- Mike Ferner: Corporations: Citizens United and other corporate unjust rights and protections. Move to Amend You Tube video by Peter Coyote
- Joe Marcikowski: Max Blumenthal, Aaron Matte, Dabe Matte The Grayzone. South by Southwest musical festival
- Gerry Condon: wants a sharper theme about decolonization. Proposes convention dates to sync with GR, last Sat of July would be interesting with Kayacitists. Proposed **Free Palistine. Decolonize the Planet** as the Theme. Other offerings from Chat:' END CORPORATE RULE TO END INVASIONS AND OCCUPATION.' Or, 'FREE, FREE PALESTINE - Decolonize the Planet!'
- Nick Mottern suggests some direct action about Nukes at Congress.
- Ken Mayers discussed his chapter's thinking about doing Albuquerque convention in **2025**
- Josh Shurley, suggested that we need to oppose the increased gummit actions against progressive groups, support decolonization, and show solidarity with other states such as S. Africa and Ireland. Wants us to schedule the conference before schools start in mid-August.

Veterans For Peace
Board of Directors
Saturday, February 17, 2024
Minutes

Present:

Board: President Susan Schnall, VP Josh Shurley, Treasurer Mike Tork, Secretary Paul Cox (notes), Mike Wong, Ellen Barfield, Gerry Condon, Stephen Zollman, Ellen Davidson, Kelly Wadsworth. Excused absence: Nick Mottern. Absent: Nya Anderson, Matt Southworth.

Staff: National Director Mike Ferner, Shelly Rockett

Members: Alice Slater, Ann Wright, Barry Ladendorf, Bill Habedank, Bob Rhudy, Bushrod007@gmail.com, Charles Powell, Chris Berg, Dan Shea, Dave Logsdon, David, David Ransom, Denise Sellers, Denny Riley, Doug Monroe, Ed White, Ed Lorenz, Fernando, Gary Butterield, Gary May, Gerald Hassett, Hart, Helen Jaccard, James Williams, Jean Morris, Jeff Merrick, Jeff Gray, Jeff Humfeld, Jim Brasile, Jim Rine Jonn Vail, Keith Orchard, Ken Mayers, Ken Kohler, Larry Orr, Larry S,. Libby Frank, M Cervantes, Michael McPhearson, Michael Kramer, Munjo Yu, Nancy River, Paul Edward Gringas, Paul Dordal, Peace Action Maine, Phil Jossleyn, Phil Pflager, Rachel Clark, Ralph,, Susan Lamont, Regina Sneed, Tarak Kauf, Thomas, Tina Jayroe, Willam Hopkins.

Meeting opened: 12:48 pm ET with videos of Statement of Purpose and Indigenous Worldview

Open mic:

Tarak Kauf: Thanked board for letter to State Department.
Libby Frank: She would like to hear from chapters with a speakers' bureau? Also her chapter lost access to their email, etc. and would like for National establish a system to maintain information/access for the chapters.
Gary Butterfield: CCMP has been at it for 2.5 years and is negotiating with www.350.org for CCMP to give a presentation at their national meeting. 350.org has begun taking note of the military's role in pollution. Their presentation with 350.org will be March 6. CCMP will stress targeting the 65 military airs shows this year. Here is an instagram video by 350.org slamming the military's contribution to pollution: https://www.instagram.com/reel/C3I0E_CJ6-t/
Ann Wright: Echoed Tarak's comment. Yesterday, her delegation on the Hill talked to 20 reps and gave them the VFP press release. No to NATO will be in DC for NATO's 75th Anniversary, on July 5-7. Lastly, the Gaza Freedom Flotilla will find a fast boat to challenge the Zionist war on Gaza.
John Vail: Liked the Indigenous Worldview video. Thinks that efforts to get money out of politics will address all the other problems in our society.
Phil Josslyn: Greetings from San Salvador, where he went to observer shit-show elections. Supports VFP's draft letter about the potential for a new McCarthy era that he thinks is on the horizon, and hopes that Board passes it.
Gerry Condon: Webinar that the Nuke Abolition Working Group is sponsoring will be Feb 29, 7 pm ET. Check VFP website.
Ed White: Suggested we protest AIPAC. Has been trying to do so in Chicago.
Jim Brasile: Shout out to Ann Wright for her work at UN and in DC. Also to Jim W and Harley Bennet for their VFP radio show. Thinks we need to focus on UN re: Gaza.
Dave Logsdon: Has been working with young anti-war folks in Minneapolis. He also plugged the movie ***Dome*** about Marshall Islander's efforts.

VFP Board Meeting called to order by President Susan Schnall at 1:17 pm ET
Merle Ratner: Susan Schnall passed the news that Merle Ratner died in a traffic accident on Feb 5 in NYC. A lifelong and tireless friend of Vietnam, Merle started Vietnam Agent Orange Relief and Responsibility Campaign (VAORRC) with Dave Cline and her partner Ngo Nhan, and led the support efforts for first the lawsuit against chemical companies from 2004 to 2009. After the lawsuit was dismissed by the Supremes, VAORRC shifted to legislative efforts on behalf of AO victims from 2009 through today. She was awarded the Vietnam Friendship Medal in 2016. Paul also spoke about his work and friendship with Merle.

Ben Chitty: Susan Schnall, related how Ben was an early and long-time leader of VVAW, a two-tour veteran of the American War, and was active in labor struggles. He passed this week from cancer.

Board Member check in. Jan 20, 2024, Minutes approved, and agenda approved.

Finance Report, Mike Tork: Budget-2024; P&L December:
Unrestricted: Checking 137K, CapOne Savings 31K, Edward Jones (CDs) 36K: TOTAL = **$204k**
Restricted: Projects Account. 22K, Zinn Fund 27K: TOTAL **$49k**

Mike discussed the approved budget and PL, pointing out that our January income was better than predicted.

Development Committee: Matt Southworth–Tabled

National Director's Report, Mike Ferner: Casey Stinemetz will extend her work contract with membership through June. Membership Committee will have a subcomm in Recruitment and Retention. If we make our unofficial goal of 1,000 new members, it will eradicate our financial fragility. He also related that he has enjoyed his emergency year as interim ED, and helping with financial and

membership retention difficulties. Development Committee, to be run by Matt Southworth will be meeting soon. Contact MF if you are interested in helping with it. Urged all members to forward our E-News to all your friends as a way to extend our outreach. Chris Smiley is doing a great job with social media. We need to get started on the 2024 Convention and also the 2025 convention. The State Department letter is getting much attention, due to social media help from Sean Nestor and Terry Lodge (who drafted it). Also, Nick Mottern put us in touch with Josh Paul, a State Department employee who resigned over illegal weapons shipments, and who is sending out that letter to hundreds of other State Department employees to nudge them into their own actions. Also Ralph Nader's current column and radio show feature discussion of this letter. While individuals cannot sue the State Department, Ralph suggests that we all lobby our congressional reps to do their job.

Golden Rule, Helen Jaccard: Reported that the Great Loop was finished last year with many important actions and memorable moments. For example, every member of the House and Senate was handed a copy of VFPs Nuclear Posture Review. Also, the GR crew went to the UN and met with 13 international missions, including the Marshall Islands delegation. 2023 financials: income $105.5k. expenses: $111.6k. The 2024 Sailing Plan is to go to the Northwest from Jul 15 through Sep 30, to include Eureka to Seattle, and will show GR film, demonstrate, and talk about nukes. The 2024 budget: income $58k, exp $58k, with VFP's support to be $21.4k mitigated by $4k in restricted income to VFP. Currently GR has about $49k–close to the income goal already. Helen has put much of the GR report in a PowerPoint presentation on their website.

Peace Walk, Tarak Kauff: "Silence the Drums of War, Justice and Democracy" will be their slogan, and will likely be connected to the Gaza debacle that can reasonably be expected to be an ongoing disaster. There will be a workshop at 5 pm ET today(Feb 17) on this matter (https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83426011852?pwd=RzRzTisvLzJuV0ovYUQ4a3NFa3lrZz09). Walk will start Apr 27 in Augusta Maine, and end 700 miles later in DC by July 5 in time for actions around NATO's 75th anniversary. The project needs help! FMI www.peacewalk2024.org .

Executive Committee Report: Susan

1- **Socially Responsible Investments:** Recommendation that VFP investments be made through socially responsible banking institutions.

- Motion Mike Tork, second Stephen Zollman, to put additional CD's into Amalgamated Bank (started by Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America in 1923). Our current checking has $137k. Move $40k of that into a 7-month CD in AB. Passed.
- Motion Mike Tork, second Mike Wong: Withdrawing money from any of our CDs will require the approval of the majority of the VFP Board. Passed.

2- **Administrative Fee:** Motion Paul Cox, second Mike Tork, to reduce 8.5% administrative fee to 5%. Passed.

3- Start organizing for conventions 2024 (virtual) and 2025 (in person). Tucson has offered to host 2025, and Santa Fe/Albuquerque chapters will also consider. Note that 2025 will be the 40th Anniversary of VFP!

4- **Attacks on progressive organizations** by the press and politicians Mike Wong drafted a statement, opposing such slander, which is attached as Appendix1. Ellen Barfield suggested that references to "Americans" be changed to "US" or "US citizens". Ellen Davidson thought the statement was too long, and suggested that she edit it for length without changing its meaning. Gerry Condon thought that we should run the statement past Code Pink since they are mentioned so often. Josh Shurley also thought it is too long and needs to be shortened. Compromise suggested by Susan is to put it up on PPN and on Website, but Ellen D will shorten it and seek approval through ExComm. No vote. Accepted without objection.

5- **092 Greater Seattle Washington:** Requested name change to Daniel Ellsberg Chapter 092. Motion Mike Wong, second Josh Shurley, to approve. Passed.

6- **Board Committee List** of chairs/liaisons and members, Accepted without objection. Susan pointed out that committee membership is open to all members, not just board members.

ExComm: President Susan Schnall, Vice President Josh Shurley, Secretary Paul Cox, Treasurer Mike Tork, National Director: Mike Ferner

Membership and Chapter Support: Chair Josh Shurley, Nick Mottern, Dave Logsdon, Enya Anderson, Ellen Barfield

Recruitment and Retention: Chair Gerry Condon

Transformative Justice: Chair Kelly Wadsworth, Mike Wong, Stephen Zollman, Ellen Davidson, Barry Reich, Greg Corning

Communications: Chair/Liaison Gerry Condon, Ellen Davidson

Delegations: Chair Ellen Davidson, Josh Shurley, Enya Anderson

Finance: Chair/Treasurer Mike Tork, Ellen Davidson, Paul Cox,

Development: Chair Matt Southworth, Stephen Zollman

Personnel: Chair Paul Cox, Enya Anderson, Kelly Wadsworth, Nick Mottern

Convention: Co-chair Susan Schnall, Co-chair Mike Ferner, Board of Directors

Awards: Chair Josh Shurley, Becky Luening, Nick Mottern, Mike Tork

Bylaws: Chair Josh Shurley, Stephen Zollman

Resolutions: Chair Josh Shurley, Bob Gryzinski

Nominations: Chair Ellen Barfield, Enya Anderson, Dave Logsdon

VFP Advisory Board: Chair Paul Cox

Next Board Meeting: March 16, 2024

Adjourned at 3:20: **Rump Session** followed: Barry Ladendorf brought up that Jerry Genesio and a few others started VFP in July ,1985, and suggested we plan 40th Anniversary events. Also suggested Advisory Board members be asked to write why they joined VFP statements that we can use to drum up interest. He is willing to work on the Advisory Board Committee. Mike Ferner mentioned that Matt Hoh may also be willing to help with AB.

Appendix 1: Veterans For Peace denounces false allegations of foreign funding to peace groups by Nancy Pelosi, the media, and Washington politicians.

California Democratic Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi's recent claims that Code Pink and other peace protesters calling for a ceasefire in Gaza are either Russian or Chinese funded is absurd and insulting, and Veterans For Peace calls on her to withdraw such allegations and apologize. In October of 2023, Pelosi told a group of Code Pink protesters (all of whom were White US citizens), to "Go back to China where your headquarters is." Then in January of 2024, Pelosi said in an interview, “I think … some of these protesters are spontaneous and organic and sincere ..... Some, I think, are connected to Russia. And I say that having looked at this for a long time now, as you know.” When asked whether she thought some pro-Palestinian protests were Russian plants, the responded, “I don’t think they’re plants.... I think some financing should be investigated... and I want to ask the FBI to investigate that.”

"Go back to China!" is a common racial insult that historically has been hurled at Asians, but now Pelosi has crossed racial lines and thrown the insult at Whites. It should also be noted that prominent White members of Veterans For Peace have reported that in advocating for peace, they have in the past been told to "Go back to Russia!" The stereotyping and irony is embarrassing, defies reality or logic, and highlights the absurdity and falsehood of these claims.

Groups such as Code Pink and others have been around since the "War on Terror" began with our tragic and foolish wars on one nation after another in the Middle East. Now that the US has declared Russia and China to be our latest enemies, she's trying to connect dots that simply aren't connected. For example, why can't Pelosi decide whether peace folks are funded by Russia or by China? Because there's no evidence for either, simple as that. She is claiming things that just don't exist.

On August 5, 2023, the New York Times attacked Jodie Evans and Code Pink and other peace groups in an article entitled, “A Global Web of Chinese Propaganda Leads to a U.S. Tech Mogul.” But if one reads the article carefully, the evidence provided actually shows that the headline was false, the US tech mogul in question made all his money in America, and is donating his American money to American and international peace organizations. The tech mogul lives in Shanghai and has a wide range of contacts there, including Chinese officials. But it’s perfectly normal for business people in any country to have many contacts including government officials, just as both American and foreign business people in America normally have contacts in both government and private agencies in order to do business. The peace groups he donates to criticize American foreign policy, but based on fact, not anyone’s propaganda.

Yet following the NYT article, Republican US senator Marco Rubio asked the United States Department of Justice to open an investigation into Code Pink and other entities for potential violations of the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA). Then in November of 2023, ten Republican House members of Congress signed a letter saying that they are 'deeply concerned' with Code Pink's ties to the Communist Party of China and requesting documentation.

When multiple people and groups make similar observations about US aggression around the world and support each other in speaking up about it, the US mainstream media calls it a "conspiracy." But when the CIA and its offshoot the National Endowment for Democracy fund projects such as the "Voice of America" and "color revolutions," stage coups and fund, arm, and train insurgents in foreign countries around the world, they call that "democracy." And when Washington politicians receive money from pro-Israel lobbying groups, the right wing Taiwan DPP party, or American weapons contractors supporting our (big money making) foreign wars, that is considered business as usual. There's a double standard here: peace groups are falsely accused - without evidence - of having funding from foreign sources, while Washington politicians are openly taking money from compromised sources with serious conflicts of interest as a "normal" practice.

One has to ask, if this is how much our American leaders falsely stereotype and demonize our own citizens advocating peace, how much are they doing the same to the foreign nations and governments that they oppose?

This is a bipartisan attack on peace and those who advocate it, in essence, a new McCarthy Period. The McCarthy Period was one of the darkest periods in living American history, and Veterans For Peace denounces a return to such a period. We must rise above such darkness, seek diplomatic rather than military solutions to problems, and cultivate peace rather than war with other nations. In today's world of high tech and nuclear weapons, either we humans will all learn to live together, or we will all die together. Veterans For Peace urges our American leaders to promote living together.

–END Feb 2024 Notes–

Veterans For Peace
Board of Directors
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Minutes

Present: President Susan Schnall, VP Mike Wong, Treasurer Mike Tork, Secretary Paul Cox (minutes), ED Mike Ferner. Board Members: Josh Shurley, Enya Anderson, Gerry Condon, Ellen Davidson, Ellen Barfield, Nick Mottern, Kelly Wadsworth, Stehen Zollman, Matt Southworth. Staff: Shelly Rockett, Chris Smiley, Casey Stinemetz

Members: Alice Slater, Al Glatkowski, Anthony Donovan, Adam Toohaker, Bob me, Carole Baraldi, Chuck T!, Chris Antal, Daniel Guy, David Ransom, David Cooley, Denny Riley, Don Kimball, Doug Rawlings, Elsa, Frank Campbell, Gary Ghirardi, Gerald Hassett, George Jiracek, Jack Gilroy, Jim Rine, James Brown, Jane Huntington, Jeff Gray, Jeff Roy, JeTina Jayroe, John Amadon, John Vail, Kathleen Michele Gilberd, Ken Embers, Ken Mayers, Larry Meisgeier, Munjo Yu, Nancy S., Paul Edward Gingras, Phil, Regina Sneed,

Robert Williams, Roger Erlich, Scott Alexander, Sal Jimenez, Sammy Jones, Stan, Susan Lamont, Taylor, Thomas Leonard, Tom Larsen, Tom Wilber, Vince Dijanich, Woody Powell, Zool Zolowicz.

Open Meeting Convened: 12:44 pm ET with videos of Statement of Purpose and poem by Jennie Pacanowski

Member Comments:

Jack Gilroy plugged the Ban Drones efforts to put out PSAs to expose war industries. He has been working with Nick Mottern and encourages people to contact them.

Chuck Ti expressed thanks to VFP, and wants to revive legislative and lobbying group

Nancy S: We should add "ending Colonialism" to our Statement of Purpose

Alice Slater: the news about Boeing's recent airplane skin failure is the result of them buying off safety rules through Congress, and we could use that corporate corruption to change policies

Anthony Donovan: This monday is the 3d anniversary of the TPNW, and encourages chapter activities. Encourages people to come to DC for action. Encourages people to invest in non-military banks.

Board Meeting Convened: 1:08 pm ET

Introductions and swearing in of board members: new Board members: Kelly Wadsworth and Stephen Zollman-veteran VFP members and Ellen Davidson-VFP's first associate board member. Paul Cox and Susan Schanll were re-elected. "I, <state your name>, will uphold the Veterans For Peace Statement of Purpose, and fulfill my responsibilities and obligations to the organization as a national Board of Directors member to the best of my abilities. I will work together with other Board members to foster the growth, integrity, and well being of the finances, membership, and chapters so that we may fulfill our mission of abolishing war."

President Schnall expressed thanks to Michael Dempsey and Ken Mayers for extraordinary years of service and dedication to Veterans For Peace.

Checkins/self introductions by board members

Minutes for December 16, 2023: Motion Shurley, second Wong to approve. Passed

Agenda: Motion Wong, second Barfield to approve: Passed

Board election of officers: President Schnall passed gavel to VP Emeritus Mike Wong

President: Susan Schnall only nomination
Vice President: Josh Shurley only nomination
Secretary: Paul Cox only nomination
Treasurer: Mike Tork only nomination
All positions filled unanimously

REPORTS:

Finance, Mike Tork:

Cash On Hand: $156k
Savings: $31
Ed Jones: $35k CDs mostly
Restricted Funds: $22k
Zinn Fund: $27k
TOTAL: $271k
P&L: 2023 Income: $523,177.62; 2023 Expenses: $400,118.67; finished with $123,058.95 excess.

Budget 2024, Mike Tork: Motion Tork, second Shurley, to add line item of $5k to the 2024 budget for assistance with members' travel costs. Approved. Secretary will change Policies and Procedures to reflect application procedures as proposed and passed. Proposed Budget for 2024

Projected Income $482,809; Expenses $434K; Expected $54,367 excess. Motion Barfield, Second Shurley to approve budget as submitted. Approved.

Communications/Youtube, Chris Smiley: reported social media growth across all platforms. In Youtube, we now have the ability to sell ads, and a test program made $10. If we had used ads for the Ann Wright video a few months ago that got more than 100,000 views, we could have made $5k-ish. We will not have control over which ads get shown with our videos but do decide when videos get set up for ads. We decided to give the process a chance.

National Director's Report, Mike Ferner: He welcomed Casey Stinemetz back on staff as our membership organizer on an initial three-month contract. Casey is working to rejuvenate several chapters. He also thanked the other staff–Shelly, Chris, Becky, and Gail for their hard, smart work. Thanked Ken Mayers and Michael Dempsey for their time on the Board. He discussed membership numbers and set a goal of 1,000 new members this year. Last year we got 372 new members, but lost 987 for a net negative 615. With this 1,000 new-member goal we will have a net gain of 13, so need 84 per month. Urged us to undertake various organizing efforts to recruit new members. In that vein, the National office has wallet-size cards available with our contact information and a QR code directly to the "Become a Member" page on our website. They can be found on the Downloadable Resources page on our website (https://www.veteransforpeace.org/take-action/downloadable-resources) and can be printed up as business cards on Avery stock. Or you can design your own at one of the online vendors.

Spring organizing opportunities for chapters and indy members. See this document for details and "how to" suggestions:

1. **April 4**: anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination. Many cities have public readings of his "Beyond Vietnam" speech he gave at Riverside Church, exactly one year before his murder. **VFP chapters and independent members need to join those efforts that are already being planned and organize ones where there aren't any.** Keep your QR code membership card on you!
2. If we want to recruit younger members, the ongoing ceasefire rallies are where we'll find them – and many are post 9/11. Keep your QR code membership card on you!
3. We've started circulating VFP's 30-second "Climate Crisis PSA" to members with these instructions on how to get it aired on local TV stations
4. An excellent indy documentary, "What I Want You to Know," is available for chapters and members to show for very reasonable rates. One chapter has done so and more should. The vets in the film are all post 9-11. The interviews are stunning.

2023 Endorsements: This document lists them all from April 1 to December 31.

Convention: This year's convention will be virtual again, with an in-person convention for sure in 2025. Be sure to see the great job Becky Luening did on the program book for this year's convention. Mike sent one to Ralph Nader and they're good for sending to major donors.

Development Committee, Matt Southworth: First meeting is this coming Monday, Jan 23, 2024. They will create a development calendar. Expects to be running full speed by summer.

Summary of Board's Accomplishments for 2023, Susan: We have been successful in stabilizing VFP. The only way that has been possible was due to teamwork and members stepping up. Yurii Sheliazhenko, peace activist in Ukraine, is our new member of the advisory board. We will not have an in-person convention for 2024, but wants to have one in 2025–need a chapter to step up to host. Please let national know if you want to be on either 2024 and/or 2025 convention.

VFP Board Member Expectations: The collective responsibilities of the Board are described in the VFP Bylaws and Policies; the following expectations are a guide to individual member responsibilities:

1. Be familiar with the VFP Bylaws and Policies
2. Attend monthly VFP Board meetings
3. Support and participate in fundraising efforts for: Funding the organization. The board is responsible for the continued funding and financial health of the organization. Maintaining fiscal accountability. The board approves and closely monitors the organization's expenses and income. The board oversees the organization's resources (including the time of volunteers and staff) are used appropriately, and ensures that the organization has enough money to operate.
4. Participation in board activities. The board has monthly zoom meetings. Please let the President of the Board know when you are unable to attend.
5. Chair and/or actively serve on Board committees
6. Participate in the planning for the VFP National Convention
7. Be available to membership for questions and concerns about VFP
8. Be a strong voice in promoting VFP at the national and local level
9. Actively participate in financial oversight
10. Support Board decisions
11. Acknowledge the Code of Conduct

VFP National Board Committees and chairs

1. Communications Committee–Gerry Condon
2. Convention Committee–Susan Schnall **and Everybody!!**
    a. Convention Committees (Program committee, workshops, outreach, communications, etc.)--TBD
    b. Bylaws–Josh Shurley
    c. Resolutions–Josh Shurley
    d. Nominations–Ellen Barfield
    e. Awards–Josh Shurley
3. Delegations Committee–Ellen Davidson
4. Development Committee–Matt Southworth
5. Executive Committee–Susan Schnall
6. Finance–Mike Tork
7. Membership & Chapter Support Committee–Josh Shurley
8. Personnel Committee–Paul Cox
9. Recruitment and Retention–Gerry Condon
10. Strategic Planning Committee–(on hiatus)
11. Transformative Justice Committee–Kelly Wadsworth
12. Ad Hoc Advisory Board Committee–Paul Cox

Liaisons with National Projects / Working Groups: (to be assigned)

1- **National Projects:**

Climate and Militarism
Courage to Resist
Deported Veterans Advocacy
Full Disclosure: Toward an Honest Commemoration of the American War in Vietnam
Golden Rule
Iraq Water Project
Korea Peace Campaign
Save Our VA (SOVA)
VFP Peace Walk (new)
Vietnam Agent Orange Relief and Responsibility Campaign (VAORRC)

Vietnam Full Disclosure Campaign

2- **Working Groups**

Be the Change Book Club
China
Democracy and Peace
DU, Cluster Bombs, and Landmines
Homeless Veterans
No Drones
Nuclear Abolition
Russia
SOAW/Latin America

Descriptions of Committees

Communications Committee: Charged with promoting VFP and bringing visibility and recognition to VFP actions and principles. Involved in oversight of VFP communications as well as monitoring the publication of VFP materials (e.g., VFP Newsletter, VFP papers, etc.).

Convention Committee: Charged with the planning and organization of the annual convention. The membership of the Convention Committee changes with each convention but will include at least representatives from the previous year's convention, the current year's convention, the upcoming year's convention, the Executive Director and the President.

Awards Committee: Charged with developing the annual award categories, criteria and nominating procedures, found in Awards section, plus recommending award recipients to the Board.

Nominations Committee: Charged with identifying qualified members to run for election to the Board of Directors, as required by VFP Bylaws and will perform its duties as described therein.

Bylaws Committee: Charged with ensuring that the bylaws meet the evolving needs of the organization. To this end, and in accordance with our Bylaws and Policies, the committee will:

1. Receive proposed amendments or suggestions from a member, a chapter, or the Board.
2. Study, draft, or redraft proposed amendments as appropriate.
3. Make a recommendation to the Board as to their disposition.
4. Periodically review the bylaws to identify needed amendments, or rescissions.

Resolutions Committee: Charged with facilitating the resolutions procedures as described by the bylaws and developing any other necessary procedures, found in the section on Resolutions.

Delegations Committee: Charged with assisting our members in organizing and applying for Board approval of all VFP U.S. sponsored delegations, and making a recommendation to the Board regarding approval.

Finance Committee: Charged with creating strategies that will develop the financial strength of the organization (e.g., major donors, foundations, mailings, planned giving and special events), and supporting and assisting the treasurer by reviewing professional accounting reports and giving advice on investments and disposition of endowment. The committee is chaired by the Treasurer and consists of at least that position, the President and Executive Director.

Development Committee: New committee split from Finance, Policies require some revision to separate charges.

Membership and Chapter Development Committee Charged with supporting individual members and chapters. <u>Membership support:</u> building an outreach campaign and supporting new and existing

members to include orientation of independent members and connecting members to local chapters. Chapter support: assist in the chartering, formation, and ongoing support of VFP chapters and providing support and assistance to reinvigorate inactive chapters. Staff provide direct assistance to the committee by verifying veterans' status, providing reports, and issuing charters and related paperwork. Due to the intense workload of this committee, it shall include a steering committee made up of two members of the Board of Directors (chair and co-chair of the committee), two members of staff (the executive director and membership coordinator) and one member at large as appointed by the President of the Board of Directors. Additional members can serve to help support the committee's goals as needed.

Transformative Justice Committee: Charged with overseeing the internal health of the organization, to include continued exploration of Transformative and Restorative Justice, updates to the Code of Conduct based on member input, and investigating complaints and grievances about members and chapters. Because of the sensitive nature of this committee's work, this committee will be composed of members with a specific background in restorative justice, misconduct/harassment investigations, social work, or other applicable areas. The committee shall work to ensure that our Code of Conduct and Misconduct/Harassment policies and procedures are transparent and serve the needs of our community.

Personnel Committee:Charged with hearing grievances (see Grievance Procedures), and making recommendations to the Board regarding personnel policies and staffing. The committee is also charged with developing evaluative criteria for the Executive Director and ensuring that periodic evaluations are completed. The Personnel Committee shall be composed of 2 or more board members.

Strategic Planning Committee: Charged with developing, overseeing, and updating VFPs national strategic plan and evaluating its effectiveness. The strategic planning committee shall be comprised of members of the Board of Directors, staff, and VFP members, and will elicit input from the broader Board, staff, and membership. The strategic plan will be subject to the approval by the full Board of Directors and the Full Board will review the committee's recommendations at least twice a year, if not quarterly. This committee does not replace working groups or national projects, or the activities of chapters, but will be the guiding document for national VFP activities.

Executive Session to discuss personal behavior of a member, 3:05 pm ET to 3:57 pm ET. Action: The board appreciates the member's offer to seek counseling. Member will be allowed to resume participation in working group emails with the understanding that any additional violations of the Code of Conduct may result in expulsion from VFP.

Next Board meeting: February 17th, 2023

Veterans For Peace
Board of Directors
Minutes Saturday,
December 16, 2023

BOARD PRESENT: President Susan Schnall, VP Mike Wong, Treasurer Mike Tork, Secretary Paul Cox (notes), National Director Mike Ferner, Ellen Barfield, Nick Mottern, Ken Mayers, Gerry Condon, Enya Anderson, Josh Shurley, Matt Southworth, Michael Dempsey, Office Manager Shelly Rockett, Staff Chris Smiley.

MEMBERS: Helen Jaccard, Lincoln Graffs, Kelly Wadsworth, Ellen Davidson, Alan Batten, Ann Wright, Bart B, Becky Luening, Beth, Bill Creighton, Bill Habedank, Bud Haas, Dan Shea, Dave Logsdon, Dave Patterson, Denise Sellars, Ed Brighton, Gary Butterfield, George TN, Gerrald Hassett, Hart Viges, Janet Weil, Jean Morris, Jay G., Jeff Humfeld, Jeff Roy, John Ivens, Kem Hunger, Libby Frank, Lisa L., M Cervantes, Paul Edward Gingras, Phil Butler, Phil Pflager, Barry Ladendorf, Ron Meyer, Soobok Kim, Stephen Zollman, Tina Joyce, Tom, Zool Zulkowitz, Ren Jacob, Jan Ruhman, Tarak Kauf.

12:40 pm ET
Videos of our Statement of Purpose and Ramallah Friends School Choir version of "Little Drummer Boy" were played
Open Meeting

Regina Sneed is a member of the Friends Committee on National Legislation, which will focus on military spending in 2024: **H.R. 4740 Streamline Pentagon Budgeting Act of 2023** introduced by Jayapal July 19, 2023 and referred to the House Armed Services Committee. Cosponsors: Moulton, Davidson, McClintock and Garamendi.

Call to Order, 1:00pm ET:
Welcome new board members: Kelly Wadsworth and Ellen Davidson---and board candidates Bill Habedank and Stephen Zollman.
Michael Dempsey and Ken Mayers: Thank you for your years of dedicated service to Veterans For Peace-both local activity and national, and in the future.

Board Vacancy, Susan Schnall: Appointed Stephen Zollman to replace Brian Trautman, who resigned. Approved by board.

CheckIns:
November 18, 2023, Minutes: Motion Josh Shurley, second Mike Wong, to accept Passed
Agenda: No comments/changes

Finance Committee End Of Year Review, Mike Tork:
Balances (as of Dec 15, 2023)

Checking Account -	$125,379
Restricted Account -	$ 22,555
Edward Jones Savings -	$ 35,434
Savings -	$ 31,079
Zinn Fund -	$ 27,434

Comparing December 2022 with December 2023

	2022	**2023**
Checking account -	$33K	$125K
Edward Jones Savings -	$ 5K (reduced to 1K)	$ 35K
Savings -	$51K (reduced to 20K)	$ 31K

We have been in the black since April and we will end the year in the black. That has not always been the case. In the past 5 years, 3 of those years VFP ended the year in the red. How was VFP able to keep going when so far in the red? By spending down savings from 172K to 1K.

P&L Spreadsheet: is being reworked to be more rational, and increase its usefulness and transparency. Will share with the board regularly in the future. Questions - feel free to email Treasurer Mike Tork at: vfptreasurer@gmail.com

Budget: The original 2023 budget was revisited and reduced in May 2023. And it appears that we will end the year in the black. The 2024 budget is in process and will be ready for the January meeting. Our approach will be conservative, since, historically, VFP underestimated expenses and overestimated revenues. We plan on increasing expenses by 3% annually and decreasing revenues by ~8% annually.

Staff reductions helped save money during the second half of this year, but we are now in the position to start rebuilding staff.

- Chris Smiley will be full time as our Communication Coordinator. Very important if we want to build capacity.
- Becky Luening's hours have been increased. Also important if we want to build capacity.
- Making plans to hire a Membership Coordinator

Dashboard: Very helpful for quickly checking where we are at with our finances. The current Dashboard is full of errors and assumptions that are questionable. Since, if organized correctly, it can be a useful tool, we will be creating a new one in 2024 that does a better job of monitoring our financial health. Of course, while our 990's can be used to track our finances, the Dashboard is an easier and more real-time way to do that. Past 990's are on our website.
Howard Zinn Fund: New guidelines approval by the board. Motion Mike Tork, second Matt Southworth to approve six proposed changes to guidelines: Approved. The guidelines are currently on the website under the Chapter tag. Plans for how to raise replacement funds for the Zinn Fund have not yet been made, but we currently have $27k.

- Reminder to all VFP Board members to please become sustainer donors
- Budget for 2024 deferred until the Jan 2024 meeting.
- Any questions for Mike? vfptreasurer@gmail.com

National Director's Report, Mike Ferner: **See Appendix 1.** Also, Mike traveled to Scranton for the Free Palestine Emergency Closure of General Dynamics, and spoke:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qzDmJT5rCn4

New Board Member Orientation, Paul Cox: the Orientation meeting was held Dec 11 with new members Kelly Wadsworth and Ellen Davidson present, and previous board candidate Stephen Zollman. Also present were several board members. We covered the Board's legal responsibilities, individual board-member responsibilities, and the wide-ranging efforts for peace that VFP members do, including our national projects and working groups.

Annual Review Reports:
Board Committees:

- **Communications,** Gerry Condon: **See Appendix 2.** Also, there is a special Peace and Planet News issue on Gaza and Palestine here:
  https://peaceandplanetnews.org/special-issue-on-palestine-winter-2023-order-page/
- **Finance/P&L for November 2023,** Mike Tork: P& L sheets are under review and revision to make them more understandable and in line with the actual expenses and incomes.
- **Membership,** Ken Mayers: **See Appendix 3.** Question from Jeff Humfeld about confusion between donations and dues. Ken agreed that there are issues and they are being worked on.
- **Personnel Handbook,** Paul Cox: no report except that it should be ready by February meeting.
- **Transformative Justice 2024,** Susan Schnall: Will be reconstituted this coming year.

National Projects:

- **Climate Crisis and Militarism,** Gary Butterfield: has 66 members on its rolls, and is active, and more relevant than ever even though current crises have driven it off the front pages. They focus on the intersection of militarism/wars and the climate crisis. Please review their website: https://www.veteransforpeace.org/take-action/climatecrisis. He reported on various activities and projects. He asked that VFP members have the CCMP give their presentation to your chapters and the other organizations you belong to. Mike Ferner played a 30-second PSA that a volunteer has made, and will be promulgated to members as soon as it is finished. Full report: **See Appendix 4**.
- **Save Our VA,** Jeff Roy: Held second DC advocacy October 15 in Congress in House and Senate, meeting with members of Congress and/or key staff including a majority of HVAC and SVAC staff or members. Common Defense helped train those who went to DC. While there also met with DAV for potential collaboration. Also had 38 Zoom meetings with members of Congress, throughout the year, and has been on three radio shows. Dan Shea asked about how to move Senator Testor, who is running for election, and has supported the MISSION Act and its evil offspring. Roy responded that they met with Testor's Chief of Staff, but his bill S 2649, is still bad news.
- **Golden Rule,** Helen Jaccard: The GR has completed its Great Loop project in 2022-23, 10,300 miles 102 cities 350 presentations, met 40 mayors, went to Cuba to support ending of blockade, met with Marshall Island refugees (from the south sea nuke tests) in Minnesota, gave Nuclear

Posture Review to every senator and congressman on Hill, got 97 news articles, visited UN with 13 Nations, encircled Statue of Liberty and the Great Lakes. Total cost for Great Loop $170,000, with income of $173k. Will go to the Pacific Northwest in 2024. Current assets $24k. Budget for 2024, has not yet been determined.

- **Korea Peace Campaign,** Ann Wright: Recognized the three Korean vets in VFP Jack Doxey, Woody Powell and Stan Levinson. Big event of 2023 was the celebration of the anniversary July 27-28 on the Hill of the Armistice of the Korean War, and attended a one-day conference at GWU in DC. Korea Peace Campaign page on the VFP Website, Our Work tab. The KPC held a workshop at the VFP convention. Next meeting Jan 25. FMI email Ann: microann@yahoo.com **Also, see Appendix 5.**
- **Deported Veterans Advocacy Project,** Jan Ruhman: **See Appendix 6**.
- **Vietnam Agent Orange Relief and Responsibility Campaign**, Paul Cox/Susan Schnall: VAORRC, VFP's oldest national project, still works closely with the Vietnam Association of Victims of Agent Orange (VAVA). We are currently rewriting the important AO legislation that Congresswoman Barbara Lee has introduced in each Congress for 12 years. It will be reintroduced early in 2024. The ongoing legacy of AO is severe, though not readily visible in Vietnam unless you look for it. The main change involves the crisis created when parents of many thousands of children born with disabilities age out. Vietnam needs to build many 'peace villages' to care for those young adults, and the US should pay for that effort. Paul represented VAORRC in Chapter 160's tour to Vietnam in October, where, among other charitable efforts, we gave a significant scholarship to the healthy son of an Agent Orange family so he will be able to support his family.
- **Full Disclosure: Toward an Honest Commemoration of the American War in Vietnam,** Susan Schnall: **https://www.vietnamfulldisclosure.org/** This is an important source for historical information about the Vietnam War, its BS Official Commemoration, and many other topics pertinent for today.
- **Iraq Water Project**: No report.
- **Peace Walk,** Tarak Kauf: This is an attempt to replicate on land what the Golden Rule did during the Great Loop. Originally, it was conceived as a cross-country walk, but has been scaled back to go from Portland, Maine April 27 to DC by July 6–650 miles in 51 days of walking (3 on, 1 off), which is approved by the VFP Board. The Walk has a volunteer guy who has promised to locate a bus for its use. FMI: www.Peacewalk2024.org.

Working Groups

- **Ban Killer Drones, Merchants of Death,** Nick Mottern: Report will be made at January meeting.
- **Homeless Veterans,** Jan Ruhman and Gary Butterfield: San Diego has over 5,000 unsheltered Americans living on the streets of what the City motto says is "America's Finest City" and in the richest country in the world. We have an additional 5,000 + housed in temporary tent cities under city control through winter. On Nov 27, Jan Ruhman, Stan Levin and Garry Butterfield went into downtown San Diego around 6:30 PM to distribute sleeping bags. We began near 2nd and Laurel, not really expecting to encounter any unhoused San Diegans in this part of town, but we were shocked. We saw a small group huddled near a corner full of shrubbery. This was the first of several surprises of the evening. We chatted with the group that turned out to be a family of six - Mom, Dad, and four children under the age of five, including a recently born baby nestled in the Mom's arms. We left them with 3 bags and some cash and promised to ourselves to check on them before we left downtown. We remained in the same general area and quickly, within an hour, distributed the rest of our 20 bags. Mostly men, but a few women, were grateful recipients, and we also had a few people decline the bags, saying they were "okay". We saw a broad age distribution, from young men (and, yes, some veterans) to an aged woman in a wheelchair. We always go home feeling good about the interaction of humanizing these folks by introducing ourselves, asking their names and putting out a hand to shake theirs', and inquiring if they could use a new sleepless bag. Since 2011, we are approaching 6,000 bags distributed and raised over $200,00.00 for the most in need–usually the new folks coming to the streets with the clothes on their backs and a blanket. We are blessed to help these neighbors in

our very limited way. The need is still great and we could surely use your help. Contact Gil Field at gilfield48@gmail.com if you want to participate.

SDVFP members Jan Ruhman and Stan Levin.

- **Nuclear Abolition, Gerry Condon**: **See Appendix 7.**
- **China,** Mike Wong: **See Appendix 8**.
- **Peace and Democracy,** Mike Ferner: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qzDmJT5rCn4 https://www.veteransforpeace.org/our-work/working-groups

Executive Session, Susan Schnall: To discuss personnel issues. From **VFP Policies, under Conduct: "**Members participating in any and all VFP communication platforms agree to adhere to the Code of Conduct. Identified individuals will be tasked with monitoring all VFP communications platforms to ensure that members are abiding by our Code of Conduct and staying on topic. These individuals will be authorized to intervene if anyone abuses their access to our communications platforms, to include restricting access. The Board of Directors will also address violations of the Code of Conduct according to our bylaws and policies."

Mike Wong presented two specific emails from an individual that are representative of a general tone often taken by this person, but which specifically and clearly violate the Code of Conduct. One was profane, and one advocated assassination.

After discussion, the board affirmed that he has a right to free speech, but some urges must be leavened when speaking–as a member–to or for Veterans For Peace. Ken moved, Paul seconded, that he be suspended from the listservs for VFP-all, Russia Working Group, and China Working Group. The membership Committee will also inform him of our action and attempt to talk sense into him. Ken will inform him of suspension and its reasons, and what he needs to do to be reinstated. Ken will also reach out to his chapter to inform them of our action, and suggest that he be removed from that chapter's listserv.

Next Meeting: January 21, 2024
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
Adjournment 1:13 pm

Appendix 1: National Director's Report for December 16, 2023–Mike Ferner

<u>Membership:</u>

- The revised membership brochure is now available, along with inserts for it -- our statement of purpose and our membership application form. They can also be DIY printed from our "Downloadable Resources" page: https://www.veteransforpeace.org/take-action/downloadable-resources Please keep a few of these with you at all times to recruit new members. Organizing is underway to form or rejuvenate chapters in Kalamazoo MI, Scranton, PA, Norfolk and Richmond VA, Easton MD, WY, Cleveland and Columbus, OH!
- Organizing opportunities for chapters and indy members -- I'm in discussions with the following people:
- An excellent indy documentary, "What I Want You to Know," is available for chapters and members to show for very reasonable rates. One chapter has done so and more should. The vets in the film are all post 9-11. Interviews are stunning.
- Masood Akhtar, who has organized chapters of "We Are Many United Against Hate" informed us about an event he's planning at Columbia University in January. He would welcome VFP participation in it. There is also potential for our chapters and the chapters in their organization to work on the "Peace at Home" part of what we do.

- From the monster ceasefire demonstration in DC on Nov. 4 to a handful of people on a street corner in Lander, WY, VFP has been involved. If we want to recruit new members, these rallies are where we'll find them – and many are post 9/11.
- Thanks to Shelly for the following info on 2023, presented at last month's meeting and repeated here. We are attracting new members but losing many more.

2023 Year-to-date new members by month

Count of Name	WartimeEra					
Month Joined	Cold War (1976 - 1989)	Gulf War (1990 - 2001)	Post 9-11	Vietnam	(blank)	Grand Total
Jan		1	1	11	10	23
Feb	2	1	5	3	12	23
Mar	2		8	6	3	19
Apr	1	2	4	7	5	19
May	2		4	5	7	18
Jun	3	2	8	5	7	25
Jul	1	1	2	8	9	21
Aug	2	1	4	9	14	30
Sep	2		2	6	14	24
Oct	8	2	19	10	17	56
Nov so far		2	5		7	14
Grand Total	23	12	62	70	105	272

2023 Year-to-date members who did not renew

Count of Full Name												
Relationship Type	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Grand Total

Associate: Reduced Cost	5	4	3	5	2	3	1	3		4		30
Associate: Scholarship	1					1	1					3
Associate: Standard	16	12	20	24	16	21	18	23	11	10	4	175
Associate: Student	1	1	3		1		1			1		8
Veteran: Reduced Cost	9	5	10	19	8	7	4	6	4	3		75
Veteran: Scholarship			1				7	2				10
Veteran: Standard	49	28	62	97	46	63	47	52	46	43	20	553
Veteran: Student	3	4	5	5	11	4	1	3		3	1	40
Grand Total	84	54	104	150	84	99	80	89	61	64	25	894

Finance:

- The "Cash Cadre's" Armistice Weekend Phonathon, generated a total of $6,625, of which $2845 was donated by callers prior to the phon-a-thon starting; made 223 contacts (email, phone, text). Our goals were to raise $15k and contact 600 people, which we didn't make. But 28 members said they would make calls, 2/3 of them did, and 223 members and donors heard directly from a VFP volunteer, which is likely the best single effort VFP has made to contact our list. Thanks to Matt Southworth and Zool Zoolkowitz (NYC Chapter associate member) for coordinating the planning and to the callers who made it happen. Special mention to Thomas Leonard, who has been the most diligent Cash Cadre member, for getting $1635 from 51 sponsors of his marathon run that same weekend.
- Giving Tuesday, thanks to Shelly's insistence that we join it again this year. Her goal was $5,000. By 1pm were just under that, and then Ralph Nader called and said he would match up to $5,000 on whatever we raised the rest of the day. So we sent out another email to our whole list that generated another $8,824. Adding in Ralph's match, we made a total of $21, 121. Last year's total was $7,319.
- Nothing more has happened since last month with Roots Action's offer of a 50-50 revenue split from sending an email to their list of 2.2 million
- We're still waiting for an $18k gift from a generous member that I first reported two months ago – bank red tape. Matt Southworth and I are in touch with the donor.
- Shelly, Paul Cox, Mike Tork and I are working on the 2024 budget but are running a little late. The board will have one ready to adopt before the January board meeting.

Communications:

- Chris Smiley's social media work continues to pay off. See his report from last month for numbers. A few factoids: 249k look-sees on Twitter post of Member Mike Madden with super-check about

the money that AIPAC has given Sen Klobuchar ($641k) over the years. Our best Facebook post reached 6.2k readers. Note that our website's home page has links (Facebook, Twitter, Youtube, & Instagram) to take you to all our social media channels. Please check them out and also hit the LIKE buttons for stuff you view.

- VFP Public Service Announcement

Convention:

- If you or your chapter took out an ad in the convention this year, or your paid full price for the convention, you've seen the superb job Becky Luening did on the program booklet.
- We're behind in planning for the 2024 convention. Should have started two months ago.

Appendix 2: COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE End Of Year Review, Dec. 16, 2023

The VFP Communications Committee has been meeting regularly – mostly biweekly – for the last several months. The Committee's mission is to identify the various VFP communications, to coordinate our messaging on these various platforms as possible and appropriate, and to amplify the visibility and public impact of Veterans For Peace words and actions for peace at home and peace abroad.

Gerry Condon serves as the Board representative but there are many leaders in this committee. Regular participants include Shelly Rockett, who manages the VFP website; Chris Smiley, who manages our social media; Becky Luening who produces the weekly VFP eNews and our twice-a-year physical newsletter; Jim Wohlgemuth and Harvey Bennett, who produce VFP Radio; Ellen Davidson, who brings much media expertise, including her work with the *Indypendent* and with *Peace and Planet News*; Janet Weil and Gary Butterfield, who manage outreach for the *VFP Climate Crisis and Militarism Project;* and Helen Jaccard, who manages outreach for the VFP Golden Rule Project. Susan Schnall and Mike Ferner have also joined several meetings. This is a high-powered group who are working well together to wrap their arms around all the VFP media and make significant improvements in our internal and external outreach.

For example, here is an informative excerpt from the Nov. 23 meeting (thanks to Shelly Rocket for recording our "running notes"):

VFP Policy Statements

Susan opened the meeting with the question of how we get VFP statements out in the world. How do we organize position statements on our website, and what happens to them once they are archived?

Together, we clarified the process for developing and disseminating official VFP position statements. Official statements have to be approved by the ex-comm. The director alerts the communications staff who are responsible for disseminating through various channels.

- *Shelly adds the statement to the VFP website.*
- *Currently filed under Our Work >> Position Statements*
- *Shelly will add a more prominent link for Position Statements to reside at top of site to make them easier to find.*
- *Chris distributes via social media channels.*
- *Chris (and others) distribute to press contacts.*
- *Becky announces/links in the eNews.*
- *Jim and Harvey talk it up on their VFP radio podcast.*

Press Contacts

*Chris will develop a press contacts list to be shared online via Google spreadsheet, and invite others to contribute to and help refine it: Gerry, M*ike F., etc.

- *Ellen recommends developing a personal relationship with press contacts. In some cases a well-placed phone call may be in order.*
- *Helen will help collect local/regional contacts gleaned during the Golden Rule tour.*

- *Susan recommends reaching out to chapters to get their press contacts*

I invite other members of the Communications Committee who are present at this Board meeting to add their own observations. The next meeting of the Communications Committee will be this coming Tuesday, Dec. 19, at 6 pm eastern. Submitted by by Gerry Condon

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Appendix 3: MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE End Of Year Review, Dec. 16, 2023

Committee Membership 2023: Ken Mayers, Chair, Nick Mottern, Nya Anderson, Michael Dempsey, Ellen Barfield, Dave Logsdon. *Ex Officio*: President Susan Schnall, Interim Executive Director Mike Ferner. *Staff*: Membership Coordinator Jules Vaquera [Note: Jules resigned from VFP Staff in mid-June 2023]

The first priority for the Committee this year was to establish a process for determining the actual status of VFP chapters, given the problems the staff has faced with the EveryAction database. Board members were therefore asked to follow up on contacting chapter contacts as assigned on a shared Google spreadsheet. We call this process "Chasing Chapters." Over the course of the year, some board members were unable to complete the assignment and those chapters were then reassigned. The project has been moderately effective in identifying the extent to which chapters are active. As a result, some chapters have been confirmed as defunct and eliminated from the website chapter list. The project will be continued into next year to develop a closer relationship between the committee and chapters, with each committee member "adopting" a set of chapters.

As committee chair, I've worked closely with VFP's amazing office manager, Shelly Rockett, in taking on some of the tasks formerly handled by the departed Membership Coordinator, Jules Vaquera. There is no way I can adequately express my admiration for the work that Shelly has done to keep the VFP ship afloat in some very rough waters. With Shelly's help, I have been monitoring the Membership@veteransforpeace.org email account and provided a response to the occasional requests for assistance coming into this email account from members. Shelly and I are now teaming on addressing the backlog of instances in which EveryAction continues to list members as "dropped," when, in fact, they have made donations since the alleged drop date. At the same time, the committee has now taken on the responsibility of welcoming new members. Shelly has provided a list of over 150 members who joined during the 90 days between 9/5/23 and 12/3/23. Contact information for those members have been distributed among the committee members with a commitment to reach all of those members within the next month. The committee will continue to welcome new members as they come in.

Shelly has also tutored me in using EveryAction to support the work of the committee. I now get all the monthly chapter reports from EA. When we are informed that listed chapter contacts are unresponsive to email requests, I can now consult the EA reports to find alternative contacts or go into EA and retrieve phoned numbers not available on the website chapter lists.

In June, Chapter 75 submitted a Chapter Status Petition requesting that the name be changed to "The Mark von Hagen - George Mizo Phoenix Chapter Veterans For Peace." The committee reviewed the request and its supporting document and recommended the board approve the request, which it did.

Also in June, three Board Members resigned. Their "Chasing Chapters" assignments were then reassigned to committee members.

Later that month the committee was asked by the Executive Committee to review the case of a member accused of a pattern of behavior in violation of VFP Code of Conduct. On reviewing the investigation which had been conducted by members of the Executive Committee, the Membership Committee recommended to the Board that the member be expelled from VFP. The Board subsequently voted to remove the member.

In August the committee reported to the board that thorough review of the VFP Website list of chapter contacts and EveryAction chapter reports revealed that

- Whereas in the last chapter contact list before transitioning to EveryAction there were contacts for 124 chapters, there are now contacts for 99.
- There are 11 chapters that are on the website but for which there are no EA reports.
- There are 11 chapters for which there are EA reports but which are not on the website. At least one of these reports, Chapter 22, has the content for Chapter 21. And at least one report has no data in it.
- There are 8 chapters which are not on the website and for which there are no EA reports.

In the case of chapters that no longer appear on the chapter list but for which there are EA reports, it may be possible to revive and restore the chapters by contacting selected members shown on the EA reports.

The effort of board members to contact the 124 chapters that are listed

- 39 are "done" — i.e. contact has been made and at least some questions answered.
- 34 have been "reassigned"— i.e. reassigned to new board members to continue eliciting responses.
- 28 have received "No response" — i.e. emails were sent but no response has been received
- 9 have "no response listed" — i.e. responses were received but the information has not been recorded on the file.
- 6 chapters were never assigned to a board member but we do have an EA report for one of them.
- 6 are "No info" — i.e. it is not known whether contact has been attempted
- 2 are international chapters composed of ex-pats

The committee has decided to give top priority for the next month to following up on the 28 "no response" cases. We will divide those among the committee members and provide EA reports if available so that we can contact members beside the listed contacts.

In November, the committee expanded its responsibilities to include providing at least one member to attend New Member Orientations and Chapter Contact Calls. We are also considering renewing the practice of periodic call with independent members and notifying members who have been recently listed as dropped. In the new year we will be calling chapter contacts for all the chapters that supported the Golden Rule's amazing voyage. We salute the Golden Rule as the single most effective recruiting tool Veterans For Peace has ever had.

La lucha continua! Respectfully submitted, Ken Mayers, Chair

Appendix 4: CLIMATE CRISES AND MILITARISM PROJECT (CCMP) End Of Year Review, Dec. 16, 2023

Website: https://www.veteransforpeace.org/take-action/climatecrisis
Email address: climate@veteransforpeace.org
Steering Committee: Barry Riesch, Cindy Piester, Ellen Barfield (new as of fall '23), Gary Butterfield, Ian Mooney, Janet Weil, Jim Rine, Steve Morse, Vince Dijanich
Summary: During the hottest year in recorded history, and as the United States poured weapons, fuels and tax dollars into 2 proxy wars – Russia-Ukraine and Israel-Palestine – CCMP's work has been more relevant and needed than ever. Veterans For Peace's mission, exposing the true costs of militarism and war, which include massive greenhouse gas emissions and environmental destruction caused by military operations, lives at the heart of our project. Our work in 2023 included public and internal education, on-the-streets actions, networking with allies, media and social media work, and the success of two major initiatives. Online, in person and via the media/social media, we reached thousands of people, and saw the expansion of our message, including at COP28, that "militarism fuels

climate crisis" – it's no longer the Elephant in the (Climate Discourse) Room! Here are the highlights of a very busy year, with a finances summary at the end:

Education on the intersection of wars/militarism and climate: over 30 slideshow presentations to civic, faith, peace, environmental/climate, and political groups, and seven in-person presentations to university and school classes; numerous local in-person presentations, tablings, and speaking engagements; a periodically updated website; and radio interviews and LTEs. Dr. Kathryn Statler of the University of San Diego stated, "Our classes learned significant new information about the military's role in the climate crisis." We made good use of the downloadable brochure and flyer on our website, as well as bumper stickers and small stickers handed out in the thousands at major events and actions. We presented 2 webinars, "Beyond Earth Day" featuring different aspects of our work in May, and "Climate Crisis: Veterans Respond" as a kickoff to the annual VFP convention in August.

On-the-streets actions: With the pandemic finally easing, our year got off to a strong start in Silver Spring, Maryland, with the local Veterans For Peace chapter sponsoring a youth-led "Stop War, Save Climate" rally on MLK Day. CCMP members were part of various Earth Day activities and participated in the enormous march and rally organized by the Poor People's Campaign in Washington, DC in June. CCMP was part of the first-ever Anti-Militarism Hub in the March to End Fossil Fuels in New York City on September 17. Steering Committee members Jim Rine and Ellen Barfield engaged in direct action at Wall Street the following day, leading to their arrests for nonviolent civil disobedience. Numerous local chapters of VFP included our banners, signs, stickers and brochures in their events.

Networking with allies: A first this year was the participation of Ian Mooney as a panelist in the youth-centered Power/Shift 2023 conference April 6-8 in New Orleans. The theme was "decolonialized space" and panel topics included Cop City in Atlanta; weapons manufacturing; military on campus; how to read military propaganda (Ian's topic). Subsequently, Ian was invited to join a youth progressive group, Kentucky Student Environmental Coalition (https://www.kystudentenvironmentalcoalition.org/), leaders in addressing climate issues in Kentucky. CCMP co-founder Jim Rine attended the invitation-only 8-day retreat sponsored by the Costs of War Project (About | Costs of War (brown.edu)), which was held at the Blue Mountain Center (https://www.bluemountaincenter.org/) in New York State. Additional organizations represented were Union of Concerned Scientists USA, Win Without War, The War Horse, Women Crossing the DMZ, and academics and climate activists from Hawaii, the EU, and India. Cindy Piester engaged in networking in the follow-up to her participation in the UN climate conference, COP27, in Egypt last year. This year Cindy attended a UN Conference for Women in New York as a member of the UN Convocation of UU Women (of which she is a member) networking with them to bring CCMP issues to the fore. Collaborating with the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, she gave two public presentations on, and wrote a magazine article about COP27. She is currently serving as a badged virtual attendant to COP28. Along with other VFP Chapter 112 members, she spearheaded an effort to reconstitute Venturans for a Just Palestine in ongoing efforts to call for a ceasefire and justice for Gaza. CCMP members attended and presented in webinars and meetings hosted by other organizations, including our newest ally, Justice Is Global. A list of allied organizations can be found here:
https://www.veteransforpeace.org/take-action/climatecrisis/our-allies.

Media and social media work: Steve Morse was interviewed on VFP Radio (Nashville, TN) on September 17, and spoke on a Zoom/radio interview for Valley Labor Report (Huntsville, AL) on Armistice Day. Gary Butterfield was interviewed by new VFP Board member Joshua Shurley on the radio show "Stir It Up - Fresno Center for Nonviolence Radio Program" on August 9. The cover of September Teen Vogue was the unlikely place where Jim Rine's face was displayed, along with youth teen activists. Several CCMP members had letters to the editor published in local newspapers. After the departure of Samantha Ferguson, Janet Weil began posting regularly to VFP national Facebook about CCMP's work and related news. Our photos, announcements and messaging also were featured on VFP's Instagram account.

Success of two major initiatives: No MAS (No Military Air Shows) reached a new high in VFP coalition-building with 26 local groups in San Diego joining in the weeks-long protest of the Marine Corps' Miramar Air Show in September. Inspired by the No MAS webpage and the success in San Diego, Seattle VFPers aligned with several climate action groups to protest the Navy's SeaFair exhibition and Blue Angels' performances.

Veterans and Labor for Sensible Priorities https://bit.ly/VL4SP is a new campaign to generate labor and veteran support for the People over Pentagon Act (HR 1134) that seeks a $100 billion cut in the Pentagon budget. 14 unions and other labor groups and over 300 individuals have endorsed so far. Workers in the military-industrial complex need to benefit from a Just Transition during conversion to civilian industrial production and a greener economy.

Finances: CCMP began 2023 with $2,303.636 in our dedicated VFP account. Throughout 2023 into October, CCMP received donations totaling $1,965 and spent $2,918 leaving a balance of $1,133. CCMP expenditures were primarily for printing costs of bumper stickers, flyers, support for Peace and Planet News inserts, and honoraria for two speakers at the VFP National Convention webinar "Climate Crisis: Veterans Respond." Sending Ian to the Power/Shift conference cost $1,488. CCMP also paid the VFP management fee.

Looking ahead: We have just finished two planning meetings for 2024, and look forward to generating more media attention, more in-person presentations and actions, and more integration of our focus on climate and environmental costs of war in anti-war/anti-militarism campaigns. We plan to have a presence in Peace Walk and other major mobilizations in the coming year. We thank the Board, the Advisory Board (especially Matthew Hoh), Executive Director Mike Ferner, and national staffers Shelly Rockett and Chris Smiley for their support of our work exposing the interconnected existential crises of our time: war/militarism and climate.

Appendix 5: Korea Peace Campaign End of Year Review, December 16, 2023

In observance of the 70th anniversary of the **Korean War Armistice**, the VFP's Korea Peace Campaign worked on various educational and advocacy efforts, in cooperation with other U.S. peace groups working on the Korea issue. In particular, we cooperated with the Korea Peace Now group, a nationwide network of Korean Americans and their supporters.

First, we participated in the **National Advocacy Week on Korea** (online) in June, asking our members of House Representatives to co-sponsor H.R. 1369, Peace on the Korean Peninsula Act. Due to the joint efforts of a coalition of the U.S. peace groups, we have increased the co-sponsors of the bill to 35 House Members at this time.

Second, some of our KPC members participated in the national advocacy events in D.C. on July 27-28, in conjunction with the **70th anniversary of the Armistice**. In the morning of July 27, a press conference was held at the Capitol Hill, urging public support of the H.R. 1369. Rep. Barbara Lee (D-Cal.), whose father was a veteran of the Korean War, spoke there as one of the co-sponsors of the bill. In the afternoon, about 300 people joined in the peace vigil across the White House, calling for a peace treaty to end the Korean War officially. The next day, a public conference was held on the topic of "Prospects and Challenges for a Peace Treaty" at the George Washington University. Emeritus Prof. Bruce Cumings, a prominent historian on Korea, delivered a keynote speech. Then, two excellent panels were held: 1) The Human Costs of Unending War and 2) The Threat of Nuclear War. Ann Wright, our Coordinator of the KPC project, was one of the panelists in the second panel. It is also to be noted that two of VFP's surviving veterans of the Korean War, "Jack" Doxey and "Woody" Powell, tried their best by writing short articles on the Korean War, which were accepted by some online publishers such as Antiwar.com, Popular Resistance, etc. As a result of our advocacy work this July, we are pleased to report that a Korean American veteran of the ROK Army joined VFP and the KPC project as a new member recently.

Third, we co-sponsored a workshop on the **"Rising Danger of War in the Asia-Pacific"** at the VFP national convention. KJ Noh, one of the KPC members, served as a panelist in the workshop. More than 50 people attended the workshop.

Fourth, KPC project submitted a convention resolution on the topic of **"Observing the 70th Anniversary of the Korean War Armistice."** It was co-sponsored by VFP Chapters 34 (NYC), 55

(Santa Fe, New Mexico), and 113 (Hawaii). This resolution was approved in the recent national voting by an overwelhming majority. Thanks to all those who supported our resolution!

Finally, we have been holding a **monthly online meeting of the KPC project this year**. One or two veterans of the Korean War usually participate in this meeting. We share current news on the US-Korea development and discuss future activities. Our next meeting will be held on January 25, 2024. We welcome VFP members to join our meeting. If interested, please contact kpc@veteransforpeace.org.

Respectfully Submitted, Ann Wright, Coordinator, VFP's Korea Peace Campaign

Appendix 6. DEPORTED VETERANS ADVOCACY PROJECT (DVAP) 2023 End Of Year Review, Dec. 16, 2023

- 2022/2023 - years of struggle for "our" National Deported Veterans Advocacy Project and years of joy and progress.
- Since "our" September Report the pipeline of Veterans Returning Home to the U. S. has all but dried up for IMMVI as CBP & DHS have been impacted at our southern Border with Refugees and Asylum Seekers and struggle to keep up with the human suffering.
- Our Office on the Border is more critical than ever as we struggle to help those folks and our veterans by being a constant "presence" and Resource and Information Center for our Deported Veterans

Budgetary Issues:

- The project is operating in the red for the past two years. Need Help $
- We are the only Project with an actual physical Office with Overhead.
- 2 Deported Veterans past 3 months have walked in or called
- Fundraising Dried up in 2021 during Covid and has not rebounded
- Shoestring 2023 Budget $890.00 Mo. Only $200 for Staff
- Actual Budget needs 2024 are $1,665.00 with 2 Paid Staff @ $600 ea.
- VFP Chapter 91, my Chapter has been the salvation in 2022, 2023 and has Budgeted for 2024 to Pay Office Rent of $300.00 a month for 12 months.
- Plus Chapter 91 has Budgeted for 2024 $1,200.00 in travel to DC for DVAP and $1,200.00 for travel to DC for SOVA
- Website at National – Needs Polishing
- Good News – Robert Vivar, working both sides of the border continues to work for free. Also, after 18 yrs 1st Sgt. Hector Lopez has been granted re-entry into U. S., and is hoping to return on December 27.
- Mark Takano has reintroduced legislation: **HR 4569 Veterans Service and Recognition Act.**

Appendix 7: NUCLEAR ABOLITION End Of Year Review, Dec. 16, 2023

The VFP Nuclear Abolition Working Group is entering its fourth year of active engagement with VFP members and with the larger movement for a nuclear-free world. For three years, we have been mostly maintaining a biweekly meeting schedule, with one meeting a month reserved for guest

speakers who have expertise in one or another aspect of the nuclear cycle and the movement to abolish nuclear weapons.

Our three-person Coordinating Committee is made up of Jim Wohlgemuth of the Nashville, Tennessee chapter (and VFP Radio), Greg Corning of the Sante Fe, New Mexico chapter, and me, Gerry Condon, effectively the Board representative, and thus presenting this report.

Because we are all so busy on multiple fronts, we recently decided to change our meeting schedule to monthly, currently fourth Fridays at 6 pm Eastern. The final meeting of 2023 will be next Friday, December 22.

Instead of having a monthly speaker to a relatively small group (15-25 people), we will now be organizing less occasional speakers – perhaps bi-monthly – but at times where we can gather larger audiences – weekday evenings and weekends.

Our accomplishments in 2023 include hosting many wonderful speakers and actively sharing lots of nuclear-related news and analysis in our meetings and on our No Nukes list. We have successfully maintained a significant core group and attracted new members as well. We actually helped to spawn a new and very Depleted Uranium Working Group, which began as a discussion and then as a subgroup of the Nuclear Abolition Working Group. Our members joined in as active organizers and promoters of the Great Loop voyage of the Golden Rule anti-nuclear sailboat.

The Nuclear Abolition Working Group recently authored a draft statement that was adopted by the VFP Board as a national VFP statement, *Veterans For Peace: Gaza Massacre Could Lead to Nuclear War.* This statement was published in *Peace and Planet News,* in *Popular Resistance*, in *Common Dreams*, and in *Antiwar.com*, as well as on the VFP website, VFP eNews, and VFP social media. It provided people with a unique and important perspective: that the US/Israeli genocide against Gaza was tempting a wider war that could even go nuclear. It reiterated VFP's call for a ceasefire in Gaza. It called on all nine nuclear-armed nations, including Israel, to take urgent steps to build trust and begin the process of eliminating all nuclear weapons.

The signature accomplishment of the Nuclear Abolition Working Group continues to be the Veterans For Peace Nuclear Posture Review, which has been widely shared, including in April, when the *Golden Rule* was in Washington, DC and its crew and supporters distributed the Nuclear Posture review to every single Senator and Representative. The Nuclear Abolition Working Group intends to update the VFP Nuclear Posture Review in 2024, in order to keep it a living document around with we can continue to educate and mobilize.

We will also confer with the VFP Board to see if it makes sense for this essential and proven working group to apply to become a National Project of Veterans For Peace. – Submitted by Gerry Condon.

Appendix 8: CHINA End Of Year Review, Dec. 16, 2023

The ancient and the modern blend together in today's China. (Michael Wong, 10/2023)

In 2023 the VFP China Working Group met monthly and engaged in a number of activities. We added more videos to our YouTube channel, "Veterans For Peace with China": https://www.youtube.com/@veteransforpeacewithchina5667. We now have twelve videos up, with speakers such as Ray McGovern, K. J. Noh, George Koo, and Sara Flounders (who speaks on her visit to Xinjiang). The videos debunk some of the mainstream media's simplistic and often inaccurate, and sometimes outright false, depictions of China and Asia, and explain Asia's complex politics with more in-depth and more realistically. They also highlight how dangerous US escalation is, how the US is intentionally surrounding China with military

bases (60% of our naval forces), forming hostile alliances, pushing up against China's red lines, driving arms races in Asia, and seeking war.

Working Group members have a very high volume and many active email exchanges. We research China issues and share information with each other to develop a fuller understanding of China and related issues. We also often share some of that information on various other organizational and individual email lists that we subscribe to.

Michael Kramer and Sara Flounders met with a professor from Taiwan, Fu Daiwie and discussed issues regarding Taiwan island.

Our Working Group produced a webinar jointly with the VFP Nuclear Abolition Working Group and the VFP Korean Peace Campaign that was shown at the VFP National Convention. The webinar was titled, "Rising Danger of War in Asia Pacific: U.S. v. China and North Korea". It is available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kmhuBTANcZ4&t=44s . It was moderated by retired Col. Ann Wright and featured panelists K.J. Noh, Simone Chun, and Peter Kuznick.

Our members have been active in educating VFP and the public on issues related to China. Michael Wong made a trip to China with the "Comfort Women" Justice Coalition (https://remembercomfortwomen.org/), visiting Hong Kong, Shanghai, Hangzhou, and Nanjing, and made a report to the VFP National Board on the trip. He and retired Judge Julie Tang are scheduled to do a webinar on the trip with Code Pink.

Sara Flounders made a trip to China, visiting Xinjiang and other parts of China. Her report can be found at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Dr6wIb_cl4&t=6s.

KJ Noh, a member of Veterans For Peace, Pivot To Peace, and a scholar who has spoken on many news programs and written extensively on the new Cold War on China, has done many dozens of interviews and webinars on China and Asia with numerous media outlets. Here's his latest on our YouTube channel: "Asia on the Brink of Armageddon": https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3zUcuSrrZG0&t=74s.

Li Jing Jing is a star reporter from China's CGTN news network, who also has her own YouTube program. During the recent APEC summit in San Francisco, she spoke with KJ Noh and Carl Zha, a Chinese American who has his own very popular YouTube channel and lives in Bali. Here's their interview on the current state of US - China relations and the possible impact of Xi Jinping's visit (46 minutes long): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q8Id7U9sVaQ.

Professor John Walsh has spoken in videos and been published in the San Francisco Chronicle, East BayTimes, Peace & Planet News, San Jose Mercury News, Asia Times, LA Progressive, CounterPunch, and others. Here's a list of his articles in Asia Times: https://asiatimes.com/author/john-v-walsh/

Our working group invested in a paid ad in the VFP National Convention.
The VFP China Working Group is planning a trip to China next year in which other VFP folks will be invited. Details to be developed between now and early next year.

Last year, 2022, our VFP China Working Group participated in donating a banner from the San Francisco Chinese community to the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, DC: https://www.si.edu/newsdesk/releases/smithsonian-accepts-fight-virus-not-people-covid-19-banner This banner was used in a march in 2020 against anti-Asian hate incidents at the very beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, when Asians were being blamed for the pandemic, attacked, and many times killed.

In San Francisco in 2022, we also joined with Pivot To Peace (https://peacepivot.org) to demonstrate in support of the Shanghai Communique between the United States and China, an agreement between our two countries that has kept the peace for fifty years. The US is currently pressing up against the red lines of the Communique, eroding the "One China" policy regarding Taiwan island, and destabilizing the peace.

In 2022, we also joined with Pivot To Peace, the Chinese community, and others to protest Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan island, which violated the

Shanghai Communique's "One China" policy, which states that there is only one China, the Beijing government represents China, and the US will have no official contact with the government on Taiwan (we have an unofficial trade office there which conducts business, only this is allowed). Congresswoman Pelosi met with the president of Taiwan and other officials, thus violating the agreement.

Our protest was reported in media as diverse as the New York Times

https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/02/us/dozens-protest-in-pelosis-home-city-where-attitudes-toward-taiwan-are-shifting.html), Newsweek (https://www.newsweek.com/nancy-pelosis-taiwan-trip-sparks-protest-her-hometown-1730047), China's Global Times (https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202208/1272164.shtml), The San Francisco Standard (with video: https://sfstandard.com/2022/08/01/nancy-pelosi-trip-taiwan-china-war-activists/), and others around the world.

Veterans For Peace
Board of Directors
Minutes Saturday, November 18, 2023

Statement of Purpose and Indigenous World View: videos were played.
Member Comments: Doug Zachry said hello.
Meeting called to order: 1:00pm ET
Present: Susan Schnall, Mike Wong, Mike Tork, Gerry Condon, Ellen Barfield, Ken Mayers, Josh Shurley, Matt Southworth, Enya Anderson, Nick Mottern, Michael Dempsey, Paul Cox. **Absent:** Ken Mayers, Matt Southworth. **National Director:** Mike Ferner. **Board Members Elect:** Kelly Wadsworth and Ellen Davidson.
Members: Doug Zachary, Phil Josselyn, Linda…, Ken Shain, Gerald Hassett. **Staff:** Becky Luening, Chris Smiley, Shelly Rockett.
Checkins
Minutes: Oct 21, 2023, Approved
Agenda: Nov 18, 2023, Approved

Board Members Elect: Ellen Davidson, Associate Member, and Kelly Wadsworth, Veteran Member, were welcomed to board by President Schnall and several board members.
National Director's Report, Mike Ferner (Appendix 1): Becky added that annual chapter reports to Shelly or her (with an image or two) are needed by the first week of Dec for our Annual Report.
Finance Report, Mike Tork (Appendix 2): Included Profit and Loss Statement for September 2023, and update on Zinn Fund.
Communications Committee Report, Chris Smiley reported on social media work. Mike Wong mentioned that the China Working Group has a YouTube Channel but doesn't get the hits they would like to attract, and asked Chris to take a look at the channel.

Development Committee, Mike Ferner: He thinks we need a Development Committee and we have some members who could form the core of such an activity. Work in progress.
Report/Cash Cadre: Matt Southworth–Tabled. (See ND's report.)

Reports from Projects:

- **Merchants of Death,** Nick Mottern: He thanked Mike Ferner, Chis and Shelly for their outreach efforts for the MoD Tribunal first webinar. Registration for the first webinar was 1,765, and actual attendance was 535. The first night was devoted to Gaza/Israel and those companies that are responsible for US behavior. Soon there will be another about Somalia, and then another about other actions. By the end of April, jurors will give recommendations and planned actions. Social media is important to keep people aware of actions and analyses. Dec 1, in Scranton there will be a Ban Killer Drones action. Leahy Law forbids the US from sending weapons or ammo to countries involved in violation of human rights. MF responded that our work in general we need to move beyond 'fighting fires' and getting these corps out of the death-dealing business.
- **VFP Chapter 160 Delegation to Viet Nam,** Paul Cox: Reported that there were 13 people on the tour this year–our ninth and the first since 2019. Vietnam has recovered quite well from covid, and tourism is in full swing. The tour was inexpensive, except that each person also donated $1,000 to Vietnamese organizations that are addressing the dual legacies of AO and UXOs. Including the additional $7,000 from Chapter 160, we donated $20,000 to: Vietnam Friendship Village, Project Renew, Blind Center Incense Factory, TuDu Hospital Peace Center, Vietnam Association of Victims of Agent Orange, and an AO-affected family. This makes approximately $325,000 in donation since the tours started in 2012. Mike Dempsey added that five veterans on the tour had never been back to Viet Nam and were both heartened and dismayed by the high rises/golf courses in Da Nang, Dong Ha, and Ho Chi Minh City. VFP member Pat Scanlon brought his banjo and played for the children in the Vietnam Friendship Village and Da Nang VAVA Center 3, which added a lot to our tour.
- **Gaza Delegation,** Gerry Condon: Delegation attempted to deliver humanitarian supplies to Gaza but could not get into Gaza.
- **Gamers For Peace,** Ken Shain, Chapter 27: Ken related his work in Minneapolis schools, with peace-oriented e-sports, but the problem is that the military uses wargames to recruit. He has teamed up with Wisdom Gaming, with the objective to sow the seeds of peace, but the school board would not finance. They started with existing teams then recruited other teams, including some veteran-teachers. They have been unable to curtail gaming violence, unable to prohibit military access, but now at least have the opportunity for equal access. Equal access was not the goal, but it is what they have. Note that there are first-person shooter games (e.g. Call of Duty), third person shooter games (using drones, fighter jets, etc.), and non-or-less-violent games. Minecraft is an example of a builders' and co-operation game. There are also fantasy games with spells and magic, etc. He thinks that Gamers For Peace is a key opportunity for VFP in recruitment of younger vets. Susan suggested that we advertise Ken's work and see which members want to work with him on Gamers' stuff.
- Gaza Member Gerry Condon is in Egypt trying to get access to Gaza. No report.

ExComm:
National Director Recommendation for title change for Mike Ferner. Accepted unanimously .
Yurii Sheliazhenko: Recommendation that he be asked to join the VFP Advisory Board. Motion Ellen, second Josh. Accepted unanimously.
VFP Travel Fund: Has established a $5,000 Travel Fund, to be administered by Mike Tork and Ken Mayers.
A letter of support for Rashida Tlaib has gone out as an open letter to her and to all other House members, and she has acknowledged. Shelly will also email it to all House members.
Gaza/Israel statement on dangers of wider war/nuclear war. Motion Wong, second Barfield to adopt. Accepted unanimously.

Personnel Handbook draft: Tentative recommendation that new hires be given: 1) 90 days probation, 2) annual leave of two weeks/year; 3) 12 days annual sick leave, 4) leave time earned monthly. Kelly offered to help with rewriting the manual, and made some other suggestions.

Michael Dempsey shouted out to Tarak Kauf for his comments to Al Jazeera at the recent DC demo on Gaza. Mike Ferner also recommended that we all get business cards made to pass out to potential members and to media types. Paul pointed out that cards are easy to design and cheap to buy at any number of websites.

Next Meeting: December 16, 2023. Susan requested that chapter and board members make year-end reports at that meeting.

Adjournment: 12:40 pm PT, 3:40 pm ET

Appendix 1–National Director's Report, Mike Ferner: Again this month, I want to thank our tireless Executive Committee, and board members Matt Southworth, Josh Shurley and Ken Mayers who have assisted with many administrative tasks and all the other board members who have kept up their high levels of activism. Our staff, Shelly, Chris, Becky, and Gail, and Helen(GR) deserves our thanks and recognition for their continued diligence and commitment. They are a big asset to VFP.
Membership: The revised membership brochure is now available, along with inserts for it -- our statement of purpose and our membership application form. They can also be DIY printed from our "Downloadable Resources" page:
https://www.veteransforpeace.org/take-action/downloadable-resources WE SHOULD KEEP A FEW OF THESE ON US AT ALL TIMES TO RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS. Members in Kalamazoo MI; Norfolk VA; Easton MD and WY are actively recruiting to form or rejuvenate chapters.
Organizing opportunities for chapters and indy members -- I'm in discussions with the following people:
Catie Foertsch re: "What I Want to Tell You," one of the best after-war documentaries I've seen. One VFP chapter has scheduled a screening and we've had an online screening for chapter contacts and active members. Organizing showings is a really good activity for chapters and indy members. The vets in the film are all post 9-11. Interviews are stunning. Need someone to promote VFP involvement.
Masood Akhtar, who has organized chapters of "We Are Many United Against Hate" about VFP participation in an event he's planning at Columbia University in January. There is also potential for our chapters and the chapters in his organization to work on the "Peace at Home" part of what we do. Need someone to help check it out further.
VFP endorsed the Nov. 4 march and rally in D.C. for a ceasefire in Gaza. THESE RALLIES ARE IDEAL PLACES TO RECRUIT YOUNG VETERANS TO VFP. JUST MINGLE AND ASK. YOU'LL FIND EAGER RECRUITS, OFTEN POST 9-11.
Thanks to Shelly for the following membership info: We are attracting new members, but losing over 3x as many as we're gaining. If we had 3-4 years of data, we could see if those rates are getting better or worse–but we don't.

2023 Year-to-date new members by month

Count of Name	WartimeEra					
Month Joined	Cold War (1976 - 1989)	Gulf War (1990 - 2001)	Post 9-11	Vietnam	(blank)	Grand Total
Jan		1	1	11	10	23
Feb	2	1	5	3	12	23
Mar	2		8	6	3	19
Apr	1	2	4	7	5	19
May	2		4	5	7	18
Jun	3	2	8	5	7	25
Jul	1	1	2	8	9	21
Aug	2	1	4	9	14	30
Sep	2		2	6	14	24
Oct	8	2	19	10	17	56
Nov so far		2	5		7	14
Grand Total	**23**	**12**	**62**	**70**	**105**	**272**

2023 Year-to-date members who did not renew

Count of Full Name												
Relationship Type	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Grand Total
Associate: Reduced Cost	5	4	3	5	2	3	1	3		4		30
Associate: Scholarship	1					1	1					3
Associate: Standard	16	12	20	24	16	21	18	23	11	10	4	175
Associate: Student	1	1	3		1		1			1		8
Veteran: Reduced Cost	9	5	10	19	8	7	4	6	4	3		75
Veteran: Scholarship			1				7	2				10
Veteran: Standard	49	28	62	97	46	63	47	52	46	43	20	553
Veteran: Student	3	4	5	5	11	4	1	3		3	1	40
Grand Total	**84**	**54**	**104**	**150**	**84**	**99**	**80**	**89**	**61**	**64**	**25**	**894**

(Shelly commented that the Membership Committee will send out snail-mail letters to members in arrears. Also, she has been working with Monterey Chapter member Justin Losa on our database and will make a report when it is complete and it appears that Every Action may be useful after all.)

Finance: The "Cash Cadre's" Armistice Day Phon-a-thon, generated a total of $5,675, of which $2,845 was donated by callers prior to the phon-a-thon starting; made 223 contacts (email, phone, text); with 28 members saying they would make calls, 13 of whom have not entered their results, yet. It was successful in that it happened, but we didn't make our goals of raising $15k to match challenge pledges and contacting 600 people. But it's still the best single effort VFP has made to contact our list of members and supporters. Thanks to Matt Southworth and Zool Zoolkowitz for coordinating all the planning and to all the callers who made it happen. Special mention to Thomas Leonard, who has been the most diligent Cash Cadre member, for getting $1,635 from 51 sponsors of his marathon run that same weekend. PLEASE NOTE: The dollar amounts are helpful of course, but equally or more important is we're getting in touch with hundreds of members who've never heard directly from somebody in VFP. This is the most important of all our membership tasks!

Roots Action: MF is following up with Roots Action's offer of a 50-50 revenue split for them sending an email to their list of 2.2 million.

Liability Insurance: MF found a retired insurance company executive to investigate a new liability insurance carrier. He's working with Shelly on the details.

Bequest: We have an $18,000 gift coming in that was reported last month but hasn't arrived yet. Matt Southworth and I are in touch with the donor.

One positive data point amid the overall revenue/expense picture, this past week we received a $7,100 gift and a $3,000 gift (via Ralph Nader), overall total of $22,435, an unusually good week.

Communications: Chris Smiley has prepared a report for this meeting.

You can get to all our social media links from our home page. Here are links to them:

- www.facebook.com/checkpoint/260950855804872/?next=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fveteransforpeace

- https://twitter.com/VFPNational
- https://www.instagram.com/veteransforpeace/
- https://www.youtube.com/VeteransForPeace

USA Today ad: Did anyone see VFP's ¼ page ad we bought for the Veterans Day Issue?

Convention program booklets: have been sent to those who took out ads or paid extra for one at registration. Becky did a superb job on them.

Convention Committee: I'm recommending again to the board to convene a convention committee now with the initial task of finding a venue if we're going to have an in-person convention.

If you want to support Palestinians directly American Near East Refugee Aid, United Palestinian Appeal, and Palestine Children's Relief Fund. From Arab American Institute Foundation.

Appendix 2: Treasurer's Report, Mike Tork, Nov 18, 2023

Balances:

Operating Checking: $75,527.11
Restricted Checking: $22,854.67
Edward Jones: $35,408.85
Cap One Business Savings: $31,076.85
Zinn Fund: $27,431.52

Howard Zinn Fund, PROCEDURES UPDATE: We are working on streamlining the application process. Excessive, unclear wording is being fixed or eliminated, and duplication eliminated, and duplication eliminated. Lastly, the links are all located in one place. ExComm will decide which requests are awarded and for how much and share with the board. Proposals will be accepted throughout the year with 3 rating/award periods (April, August, December). Procedures, while clear, will not be set in stone. In special cases, flexibility can be employed. There will be two types of awards - Independent and Partnership. Chapters will be required to provide 25% matching funds. VFP National will not charge fees for administering this account. (Previous 20% fee proposal will not be used, nor will the usual 8.5% fee for fiscal sponsorship.)

P&L: MT shared the new format for our monthly/yearly Profit & Loss forms and will forward the actual document to the Board. Questions and further revisions will be addressed at the next board meeting after members have time to review.

Work in progress

Conflict of Interest Statement
Sally Alice Legacy Fund: MT and Ken Mayers are working on the Sally-Alice Legacy Fund as a place to park excess funds until needed
Travel Fund–to help members with activist-type travels
Peace Walk–Now limited to run from Maine to DC.

Appendix 3: Open Letter to the 212 Republicans and 22 Democrats who voted to censure Rep. Rashida Tlaib on November 7, 2023

Your November 7 vote to censure Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-Mich.) for her statements condemning the genocidal slaughter Israel is perpetrating in Gaza was one of shameless hypocrisy. Republican Rep. Rich McCormick, who introduced the resolution, twisted Rep. Tlaib's words, accusing her of "calling for the destruction of the state of Israel" because of her righteous defense of human rights and a statement calling for Palestinian freedom. In particular, Tlaib, the only Palestinian American in Congress, was criticized for her use of the phrase "from the river to the sea," which the censure resolution said is "widely recognized as a genocidal call to violence to destroy the state of Israel and its people." This slogan is nothing of the kind. As Tlaib herself said, it is "an aspirational call for freedom, human rights, and peaceful coexistence," a recognition that everyone living on the land once known as Palestine should be allowed equal rights and that the hundreds of thousands of Palestinians who were exiled and dispossessed in 1948 should be allowed to return to their homeland. The inspirational phrase is a call for an end to the occupation, an end to apartheid, a return of violently stolen homes and lands and the

legitimate right of return of a people ethnically cleansed and driven from the land between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea,

-more-

VFP Open letter p. 2 a land that was once Palestine. The phrase is a call for freedom and international human rights, including the right of return. It is not a call for destruction. Jewish theologian and philosopher Martin Buber argued that there must be Arab-Jewish reconciliation before a Jewish state could be established, but he also advocated a one-state solution that accommodated the claims to the land of both peoples. That is what "From the River to the Sea, Palestine Will Be Free" actually means. This phrase has been twisted by characterizing it as anti-Semitic, which is nonsense. Israel, a country that occupies and oppresses the Palestinians, themselves a Semitic people, cries “anti-Semitism” at any criticism of its apartheid policies, but we are not fooled. Apartheid is anti-Semitic, 75 years of occupation and oppression of the Palestinian people is anti-Semitic, genocide in Gaza is anti-Semitic, a fascist state that imprisons (and often tortures) people without charge (Israeli administrative detention) is anti-Semitic. The real anti-Semitism is that the traditional Jewish values of justice, compassion, and equality are trampled by the state that claims to represent Jews worldwide. We stand with Rashida and all Palestinians, and with Jews and others around the world who say, “Never again means never again for anyone.”

Appendix 4: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: VETERANS FOR PEACE JOINS INTERNATIONAL DELEGATION ATTEMPT TO REACH RAFAH BORDER CROSSING WITH GAZA

Contacts: Susan Abulhawa: +1.267.391.5386 Suzanne Adely: +1.773.510.7446

VFP member Danny O’Brien, VFP Board member Gerry Condon, and VFP Advisory Board member, journalist Chris Hedges, are among an international delegation of writers, lawyers, journalists, activists, students, and organizers who arrived in Cairo, Egypt this week with the goal of reaching the Rafah border crossing with Gaza. VFP Advisory Board member, retired Colonel Ann Wright, was refused entry into Egypt.

Their goal is to exert pressure to open the border for the immediate entry and sustained flow of urgent humanitarian aid—food, water, fuel, and medical aid to 2.3 million Palestinians facing starvation and death as genocidal Israeli airstrikes continuously pound defenseless civilians.

In response to the Palestinian and Arab calls for civil society to challenge Israel’s deadly occupation by heading immediately towards the Egyptian-Palestinian crossing to bring urgent humanitarian relief to 2.3 million people, we have just submitted a request to the Egyptian authorities for permission to travel to Rafah.

Israel’s wanton bombing has killed over 11,000 people, a shocking number of whom are children who were gruesomely buried alive in their bombed homes or had their bodies shredded by these bombs. Thousands more remain unreachable under the rubble, and over 27,000 are injured. Water, food, fuel, and medical supplies have been cut off, with only a trickle of aid trucks making it through the Rafah crossing.

The healthcare sector has completely collapsed, either through direct Israeli bombing or from lack of medicine and electricity to treat patients. Israel’s targeting of civilians includes destruction of more than 50 percent of homes in Gaza, nearly all bakeries, water treatment plants, schools, clinics, and other infrastructures for life.

As Palestinians in Gaza teeter on the brink of death, without sustenance or shelter, we call for an immediate end to Israel’s barbaric bombing and invasion of Gaza. We call on the world to intervene in any and every capacity to end the ongoing genocidal attacks against a defenseless civilian society, which has been unrelentingly terrorized for 35 days.

We urge all peoples and governments to act urgently to end this horror. There are hundreds of aid trucks currently parked in the desert waiting to enter the Rafah crossing. We demand they be allowed to reach Palestinians whose needs are dire and desperate.

Stop Israel’s genocidal war on Gaza Now! Open the Rafah border Now!

Participating organizations:

National Lawyers Guild
Veterans For Peace
International Action Center
US Peace Council
Black Alliance for Peace
Samidoun
International Association of Democratic Lawyers
Workers World Party
Sanctions Kill
Palestine Writes
United National Antiwar Coalition
Association for Investment in Popular Action Committees
Philly Palestine Coalition
Free Julian Assange Committee

–Notes by Paul Cox–

Veterans For Peace
Board of Directors Minutes
Saturday, October 21, 2023
12:40 pm ET

Statement of Purpose
Indigenous World View Video
Open Meeting
Member comments:

- **Rachel Clark** gave an update on the Japan Tour, which was very successful and got good response in several cities.
- **Gene Marx** mentioned a resource on a Substack author with an intelligence background and good reporting on current events.

Meeting called to Order, 1:01 pm ET: Motion made, seconded and passed to go into Executive Session for ten minutes.

Present: Susan Schnall, Mike Wong, Mike Tork, Gerry Condon, Ellen Barfield, Ken Mayers, Josh Shurley, Matt Southworth. **Absent:** Enya Anderson. **Excused Absences:** Michael Dempsey, Paul Cox, Nick Mottern. **National Director:** Mike Ferner

Checkins: Several reported feeling the emotional impact of the new war in Gaza on top of the war in Ukraine and wars elsewhere. But all continue our work for peace. Several voiced appreciation for VFP being a place where they could join with other veterans to work for peace.

Board minutes, September 16, 2023: Accepted with two minor amendments.

Agenda, October 21, 202: Accepted unanimously

Interim Director Report: Mike Ferner- report was presented (Appendix 1)

Treasurer Report: Mike Tork presented his report (Appendix 2)

Convention debrief: Ken Mayers and Mike Wong said the one-workshop-at-a-time system worked well and got an enthusiastic response, including raising hundreds of dollars at a time, and recommended continuing the one workshop at a time procedure at future conventions. Ellen Barfield said we should keep options open for more than one workshop at a time. Matt Southworth suggested a hybrid conference, in-person/online. Individual chapters or regions can meet in person while it's all connected online. Questions about technical/logistical expertise needed to accomplish that. Mike Wong suggested an option would be to have several regional conferences like the past Northern California conferences separately, then a big national convention.

Communication Committee: Gerry Condon made a report on their work.

Development Committee: Matt Southworth reported that the DevComm will be doing a big national phon-a-thon on November 10th and 11th. He requested that board members participate.

Election of VFP board of directors: Once it ends Nov 6, it will take two additional weeks before we get the result.s There was a Candidates Forum held, Sep 23, and video is accessible on VFP website.

VFP statement on the Gaza War: is out and has gotten positive responses (Appendix 3)

Sally Alice is 100!!!: Ken Mayers reported on the huge birthday party for her.

Reports from VFP Projects:

"Comfort Women" Justice Coalition: Mike Wong reported on his recent trip to China with the Comfort Women group he has been working with.

Golden Rule: Gerry Condon reported that the GR has completed its "Great Loop" journey and is now back home in Humboldt Bay. They visited over 90 cities with an average of 4 events per city, and got enthusiastic responses everywhere they went.

Climate Crises and Militarism Project: Jim Rine presented these potential projects for Board approval to move ahead:

1. **Commemoration of COP28's one day session** (3 Dec.) on Health/Relief/Recovery and Peace (https://www.cop28.com/en/health-events). This project, which was proposed by Cindy Piester, and may include interviews with VFP members and others (via Zoom and live). If we cannot find an affordable videographer, we may pitch the video idea to Code Pink.

At the Cost of War Project (https://watson.brown.edu/costsofwar/) retreat Jim attended last summer two additional potential projects were discussed.

2. **Hybrid-mini-conference** in 2024 to discuss US militarism and climate crisis with cosponsors – CCMP, Win Without War, Code Pink, Cost of War Project. If successful, this may be followed by a larger conference in 2025.

3. **A survey of veterans' opinions on climate change** and the role of militarism in the climate crisis. This survey would include many veterans' groups.

The board approved CCMP moving ahead on the three potential projects.

ExComm Report: Susan reported that the ExComm has approved that Mike Ferner be given the title of Director, Veterans For Peace and a salary of $25,000/year. Board members commented on the outstanding work Mike has been doing. The ExComm's recommendation was unanimously approved by the board.

Next Meeting: November 18, 2023

Adjournment: 3:02 pm ET.

Appendix 1: IED Report, Mike Ferner: Interim Director's report for **October 21, 2023 Board meeting**

Membership: The revised membership brochure will be back from the printer next week. Members in at least four places who are working on starting or building up chapters will get some. Members are encouraged to keep a small number with them. They can be found at: https://www.veteransforpeace.org/take-action/downloadable-resources

Organizing opportunities for chapters and indy members: I'm in discussions with the following people

· **Catie Foertsch** re: "What I Want to Tell You," one of the best after-war documentaries I've seen. One VFP chapter has scheduled a screening and I'm discussing partnering with her since she's not been able to attract a distribution

company and organizing showings is a good activity for chapters and indy members. The vets in it are all post 9-11. Interviews are stunning.

· **Masood Akhtar**, who has organized chapters of "We Are Many United Against Hate" about VFP participation in an event he's planning at Columbia University in January. There is also potential for our chapters and the chapters in his organization to work on the "Peace at Home" part of what we do.

Call to Action: Next week we will send a "Call to Action" to our entire list of members and supporters, urging them to contact their House members to support the resolution sponsored by Representatives Corrie Bush, Tlaib, Lee, Ramirez, and Carson for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, humanitarian aid, and negotiations.

Communications: See these links to review VFP social media platforms:
·https://www.facebook.com/checkpoint/260950855804872/?next=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fveteransforpeace
· https://twitter.com/VFPNational
· https://www.instagram.com/veteransforpeace/
· https://www.youtube.com/VeteransForPeace

Following is a summary of the social media report Chris turned in this week.
YouTube Channel: In the previous 365 days, the channel got 45,409 views. In the last 28 days, it got 31,152 views. Top views: Keynote w/Clare Daly—23.2k; Rising Danger in Asia Pacific – 2.7k
Instagram: 1) Mike Hanes' interview, where he explains the similarities between Iraq and Palestine is linked in our Hammas-Israel position statement and has gotten 10,458 views, 890 likes, 210 forwards, reached 9,606 Instagram accounts, 210 forwards. 2) Jack Gilroy interview in Albany: 6,327 views, 722 likes, 108 forwards, 5,991 accounts reached

e-News: Check the VFP e-News archive for the latest ones from Becky Luening:
· Open rates for the e-News:

DATE	# of Recipients	Open Rate	Actual # of opens	Day Sent
2023 Oct 7 eNews	20,414	10.29%	2,101	Sat
2023 Sept 22 eNews	20,429	9.74%	1,989	Sat
2023 Sept 14 eNews	20,451	11.05%	2,555	Thu
2023 Sept 8 EXTRA! eNews	20,486	15.32%	3,207	Fri
2023 August 24 eNews	20,492	12.73%	2,623	Thu
2023 August 10 eNews	20,504	11.95%	2,461	Thu
2023 July 26 eNews	20,516	6.41%	1,318	Wed
2023 July 17 eNews	20,528	12.89%	2,647	Mon
VFP eNews | June 27, 2023	20,613	7.44%	1,534	Tue
VFP eNews June 2023	20,364	6.13%	1,249	Fri
eNews - May 18th	20,438	7.84%	1,603	Thu
eNews - April 13th	20,437	14.55%	2,981	Thu
eNews - March 16th	20,505	5.81%	1,192	Thu
eNews - Feb 15th	20,618	13.00%	2,681	Wed
eNews Jan 20	20,519	16.32%	3,348	Fri

Convention: I'm recommending to the board that we convene a convention committee before November's board meeting with the initial task of finding a venue if we're going to have an in-person convention.

Finance: Board members are invited to participate in our Armistice Day phon-a-thon, Nov. 10 and 11, 4-8pm eastern each day. We'll have a zoom going and someone standing by to answer any questions callers have.

Appendix 2: Treasurer's Report - VFP Board Meeting, October 21, 2023

Balances:

Checking account 63K
Restricted funds 23K
Edward Jones savings 35K
CapOne savings 31K
Zinn Fund 26K (minus SOVA)

Caution - Just a word of caution. We continue to improve financially, but until we have a budget we need to be careful to remain frugal and continue looking at ways of decreasing expenditures. The budget is a work in progress.

990s Good news! Both 2021 and 2022 990s are being reviewed and will be submitted soon. 2021 was amended to include the correct board names. Question - Do we have Conflict of Interest statements from the board members on file? This is an IRS requirement.

Bell Tower Project: Roger Ehrlich requested that VFP act as fiscal sponsor for his Belltower Project in the event that Monument Lab awards the project a grant. Having a c3 as the fiscal sponsor is a requirement of Monument Labs. Monument Labs agrees to the 8.5% administration fee. This is a good project and VFP is happy to be part of it. Fingers crossed for Roger and this wonderful project.

Peace Walk - VFP has agreed to be the fiscal sponsor for the Peace Walk. Donations, once started, will go into VFP-restricted funds. 8.5% will be the administration fee. The walk is now proposed to start in Maine and end in Washington, DC.

Honoring Sally-Alice - Ken has proposed that VFP create a long-term asset fund named the Sally-Alice Thompson Legacy Fund. The F&F committee will establish guidelines to be added to the P&P manual to: 1) Determine the allocation of those funds to investment and savings accounts, and 2) Identify situations that may warrant transferring funds into the operating budget. The current policy, which is somewhat vague, reads that any revenue greater than 10% of the yearly budget be transferred to long-term assets. Roughly, given our current budget, that would mean anything greater than 35K.

Bequests: A 49K bequest is headed our way. Could this be the first funds we add to the Sally-Alice Legacy Fund? Should all of it go into the fund or some into the operating account? These are the things that need to be clarified in our P&P manual.

Investments: On a related note - how are our funds being invested? I will look into this since we don't want our money being used for things that go against what we stand for. Divestment needed? More to come.

Travel Fund - A renowned member has suggested that we start a travel fund to help members attend conventions, delegations, meetings, actions, etc. This needs further discussion and board approval.

P&L - I planned on regularly sharing VFP's Profit and Loss spreadsheet in QuickBooks with the board and members, and still do, starting with November's board meeting. Given the fact that there are some 75 line items in the spreadsheet, I want to make sure I fully understand each one before I share it with the board. I am sure (hope) there will be questions and I want to be able to answer them. Shelly, Mike F, Paul Cox, and I are scheduling a meeting to go over each line item.

Howard Zinn Fund: New rules: 1)Required 20% matching funds. 2) ExCom approves awards and informs the board. 3)Two types of awards - Independent and Special. $500 to $2,000 for Independent and $4,000 for Special. I also included limits to the number of grants per year (4) and clarified when they should be submitted/awarded. There are five documents that needed to be simplified and shortened. Those six documents are:

- The webpage - Howard Zinn Fund for Chapter Activities
- Howard Zinn Fund Project Guidelines
- Howard Zinn Grant Application
- Request for Proposal

- Howard Zinn Fund Grant Application (two documents with the same name. Need to change this one).
- Fund Grant Request.

Once the wording for these six documents is fixed I want to go through the webpage making sure it is easily found, clear, and that all the links work, including the ZinnFund@veteransforpeace.org email address. I will work with Shelly to ensure that all that happens. Once the webpage is in good shape, but before it goes live, I will share it with the board for comments. I think this will be easier if folks can see the entire webpage with all the corrected verbiage and links.

VFP Director: Mike Ferner's salary was increased to ~2K/month. Well worth it. And the good news is he will stick with it until February, and beyond in some capacity as needed.

Convention: Live next year? Discussions have started.

Appendix 3: Veterans For Peace Hamas-Israel Statement, October 12, 2023

Veterans For Peace is an organization of former soldiers and allies who know too well the costs of war – the obvious, visible wounds; the unseen wounds that curse us and our families for generations and the cost to society of maintaining a military larger than the next ten nations combined. Bitter experience taught us that war is insanity and suffering.

We oppose all targeting of civilians. We denounce Hamas' attacks on Israeli civilians and deplore Israel's crushing response in Gaza. We also recognize this war did not start last week, it has gone on for decades. Over $150 billion of our tax dollars have provided Israel unlimited weaponry and diplomatic cover has allowed it to expand its occupation such that 16 years ago former President Jimmy Carter clearly labeled it apartheid.

Our government fans the flames beneath the pressure cooker of occupation and our taxes make us complicit. We should not pretend shock at a violent response after Palestinian homes are destroyed to make way for Israeli "settlers" and Gaza is locked down, year after year, by a draconian air, sea and land blockade. History is defined by when you start the clock.

In the war of competing propaganda, we recognize that U.S. officials fabricate incidents for corporate media consumption, such as President Biden claiming he saw photos of beheaded Israeli children. Hours later, as reported by news outlets from the Palestine Chronicle to Business Insider, a White House spokesperson had to "walk back" Biden's claims. But just like the Bush administration claims in 1991 that Iraqi soldiers threw Kuwaiti babies out of incubators, once the lie is out, the truth rarely catches up.

This cycle of violence, coupled with the reality that war is an uncontrollable force with its own agency and purposes, results in the terrors we witness.

Neither side has a military path to victory, which is why we strongly oppose our government's plans to send troops, aircraft carriers and more munitions and President Biden's promise to fully support Israel's assault on the people of Gaza. We support a ceasefire, negotiations and release of prisoners from all sides.

Only a political process will dismantle the apartheid system, answer the grievances of the Palestinian people, create a democratic system that provides rights for all the people of Israel and Palestine, and finally bring lasting security and peace. Without that political process, the cycle of violence will magnify, dooming more generations of Israelis and Palestinians.

We lift up the words of our brother and sister military veterans, both Palestinian and Israeli, members of Combatants for Peace:

"Our hearts are with all of the victims and their families, and we hope for the safe return of those held captive, and for the safety of the civilians trapped inside Gaza...Together, we must retain our humanity, and value all life as sacred and cherished...The only solution is ending the occupation, uniting Israelis and Palestinians and focusing our collective efforts on achieving peace."

Notes by Paul Cox

Veterans For Peace

Board of Directors Meeting
September 16, 2023

PRESENT: President Susan Schnall, VP Mike Wong, Treasurer Mike Tork, Secretary Paul Cox. **BOARD MEMBERS:** Nick Mottern, Joshua Shurley, Gerry Condon, Enya Anderson, Matt Southworth, Ken Mayers, Ellen Barfield, Mike Dempsey. **IED:** Mike Ferner
MEMBERS: Ellen Davidson, Gene Marx, Bob Keilbach, Geral Hassett, Fred???, Tony Sahara, Redina Sneed, Hal Muskat, Arla Ertz, John Wilks, Ian Mooney

Open Public Meeting 9:45 am PT, 12:45 pm ET
Videos of Statement of Purpose and World View were played

Yurii Sheliazhenko, who has been arrested in Ukraine for being a conscientious objector, the video of his presentation at the VFP convention was played again. (There will be a demo at the Ukrainian Embassy in DC on Monday, Sep 18, in support of him.)

Member Comments: no comments

Board Meeting Called to Order: 10:08 PT, 1:08 ET
Checkins:
Minutes: Jul 19th and Aug 26th approved
Agenda: Sep 16, 2023: approved

Interim Director Report, Mike Ferner: See Appendix 1
Finance and Fundraising Report: included in the IED Report, Appendix 1: also, as of meeting time, Checking $65k, Savings $31k, $35k in Ed Jones CDs, Restricted $23k, Zinn Fund $30k ($4k committed to SOVA, Ch 157 asking for $1.5k, and perhaps another proposal in the works.) We have started the budget process, but, last 6 months have been very different from expectations with numerous staff reductions, increased fundraising efforts, etc, which make predictions more difficult. Profit/Loss income: Aug $82k YTD $318k exp: Aug $60k, YTD $61k. Susan stated that the Board has taken control of the Zinn Fund since the original committee is not functional nor able to be reconstituted. Garret had promised SOVA $4k for the trip to DC in Oct, and the Board has agreed to honor that commitment. Nick Mottern expressed his appreciation for the work that has been done to straighten out the finances.
Convention Report: See IED Report, Appendix 1: Susan thanked Ellen Davidson for anchoring the tech. Round of silent clapping.
Committee Reports:

Membership, Ken Mayers: Membership Committee work has continued. Last month he reported that 28 chapters have not responded to inquiries, but since then, 5 of those have been contacted. They will be following up and thanking those chapters that helped with the Golden Rule Great Loop, and encouraging them to continue to be active. Mike Ferner related that the VFP Service pins have been sent out to sustaining donors. Also several wooden plaques are with a calligrapher in Toledo to add their names and those will be sent out to all new Life Members.

Development, Matt Southworth and Mike Ferner: the Development Committee, strangely enough is, in development! Matt expects that it will gel for monthly or bimonthly meetings, will develop a 5-year plan, and will solidify the Cash Cadre dialing for Dollars (calling members to donate and perhaps become sustaining contributors). Yesterday, Matt and Jim Brasile met with a Conn Chapter member, Korean vet who has gifted VFP $18k, unrestricted. Also another $20k will be coming to VFP from this member as a gift on his demise. May he live long and prosper. Ken suggests that members can make a Payment on Death election with their bank accounts that will avoid probate delays and costs, etc.

Communications, Chair Gerry Condon, Chris Smiley, Becky Leuning, Shelly Rockett, Mike Ferner, Janet Weil, and Susan Schnall: Susan expects that they will meet monthly and asked for other people to join. Mike Dempsey and Ellen Davidson volunteered.

Transformative Justice, Susan Schnall and Mike Wong to call meeting: Committee members: Josh Shurley, Elliott Adams, David Cooley, Greg Corning, and Barry Riesch. Susan Schnall related that the TJ committee is reforming and will have a report at the next board meeting.

Nominations, Ellen Barfield: Candidates' Forum will be Saturday, September 23, 2023, 9:40 am PT, 1:00pm ET. Candidates will make statements in-person or or by video submission. Vice President Mike Wong will host the forum. It will be recorded so it can be viewed later. Veteran Candidates: Ken Mayers, Kelly Wadsworth, Paul Cox,

Susans Schnall, Bob Hanson, Stephen Zollman. Associate Member Candidates: Ellen Davidson and Bill Habedank. Susan has not yet heard from Chilcutt or Cal Thunder Hawk. Also Jack Union is not a member, and will not be on the ballot. Maria Elena Johnson has withdrawn, and will not be on the ballot.

Election will run electronically Oct 8 through Nov 6. Voting for directors and resolutions (there are no proposed bylaws changes) will be by electronic means only unless a member 1) specifically requests a paper ballot from Shelly, or 2) a paper ballot was issued and used last year. ElectionBuddy.com will be handling the election returns and results will be announced as soon as they count the ballots.

Major Actions coming up:

Climate Demo NYC; Sunday Sep 17: NYC 55/Broadway, Manhattan, 1:30 for 1 pm stepoff to short march. Will have Militarism Fuels Climate Crisis. Jim Rine will be speaking tonight at People's Forum, 320 West 37th Street 6:30 pm. Also there will be a Wall Street demo, 10 am Monday, Sep 18.

Peace in Ukraine-Sep 30th-Oct 6th, Gerry Condon reported that there are a number of events listed for that time period at www.peaceinukraine.org . Some of them have been announced in the VFP e-News, and more to come.

Merchants of Death Tribunal, Nick Mottern: There will be numerous episodes online starting Nov 12–considering the actions of Boeing, General Dienamics, etc. and talk about what can be done to charge these corps and their leaders for war crimes, reparations, etc. They have mailed questionnaires to 150 key congress types asking them about their lobbying receipts, etc, but do not expect any of them to respond; then they will try to get some print in district press. They need help with outreach, encouraging teachers to do watch parties, etc. Kathy Kelly, Brad Wolf, Ann Wright, Marjorie Cohn, Matt Hoh, etc. will provide witness. **FMI www.Merchantsofdeath.org**.

Sally Alice 100th Birthday, Ken Mayers: Friday Oct 14 party. She was one of the founders of the Alb Peace and Justice Center and the Alb VFP Chapter. Ken will be happy to represent VFP. Susan Schnall indicated that the ExComm recommends a special certificate and recognition of her many years of service to VFP and to peace. A large bouquet of flowers will also be sent.

Move To Amend, Mike Ferner: He proposed that we form a working group, titled VFP Democracy and Peace Working Group. Purpose will be to examine history of Corporations and efforts to amend the Constitution to dehumanize corps. Consult with Move To Amend on how to work together. Motion Mike Dempsey, second Ken, to form this working group. Passed with one abstention. **FMI see Appendix 2.**

Violence at Demonstrations: Mike Wong proposed to send the attached letter to our allies urging them to utilize the existing widespread video capabilities to protect themselves and to document hostilities from outside the event. **See Appendix 3**. Motion Paul Cox, second Josh Shurley to approve letter as written, Passed.

Status of Rogue Valley VFP Chapter, Susan Schnall: The Board received an email from Chapter 157, that they are withdrawing their chapter because of political differences over the Ukraine War. They were invited to attend a business meeting or board meeting, but did not show up at either. Paul Cox has had an open discussion with one of their members, and does not recommend that the Board take any action other than sending them a letter asking them to stay.

REMINDER to attend Candidates Forum, Saturday, September 23. 10:00 am PT, 1 pm ET.

Next Meeting: October 21st, 2023, 9:40 am PT, 12:40 pm ET
Adjournment: 12:16 pm PT,

Post meetings, Ian Mooney, CCPM: Ian announced that CCMP has a slide show and video presentation that is available at any time. Contact him at ianfmooney@gmail.com or Gary Butterfield, gbutterfield@san.rr.com.

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Appendix 1 IED report, Mike Ferner

Communications:

Check all our social media platforms for Chris Smiley's recent work:

- https://www.facebook.com/checkpoint/260950855804872/?next=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fveteransforpeace
- https://twitter.com/VFPNational
- https://www.instagram.com/veteransforpeace/
- https://www.youtube.com/VeteransForPeace

Check the VFP e-News archive for the latest ones from Becky Luening

- Open rates for the e-News:

Date	# Sent	Open Rate	Day Sent
2023 Sept 14	20,451	11.05%	Thu
2023 Sept 8	20,486	15.32%	Fri
2023 August 24	20,492	12.73%	Thu
2023 August 10	20,504	11.95%	Thu
2023 July 26	20,516	6.41%	Wed

Convention:

· Total number of registrants: 323
· Last year's registrants: 335
· Total funds raised on top of Ralph Nader's $10,000 = just under $28k
· Chris is doing some light editing of the speakers and panels and those will be on the VFP YouTube channel next week.
· You've all heard some of the many kudos we received for the convention's content and technical quality. I'll just add that you can take however many you've heard and at least double it from what we've received at the national office.

Finance:

· We picked up 15 new, monthly sustainers for a total of 125 and 10-12 new lifetime members during convention fundraising.
· Re: monthly sustainers, 39 have been identified as having expired credit cards. Shelly and Ken Mayers are addressing that.
· The committee will soon begin preparing next year's budget which will help make hiring and other expenditure planning much easier.

NOTE: I'll repeat what I said prior to the convention. Considering the great fundraising that we did during it, we're now out of "dire straits" and doing "OK" financially. The balance sheet looks good because we have cut expenses as much as possible. New hire (Membership organizer) will be hired soon which will change how rosy the books look presently. Whether we can afford a permanent E.D., which is a necessity, remains to be seen as we prepare next year's budget. <u>Board members and active members should be thinking about candidates for a permanent ED now</u>. When I started April 1, I thought my tenure in this position would be six months at most, or Oct. 1, and I don't envision staying past the end of December.

Personnel:

· I hope to hire a Membership Organizer by the end of this month.
· Please review the job description and take some time to seriously consider if you know someone who fits the description. We will be best served by hiring somebody who has proven they know how to organize. It ain't rocket science, but that doesn't mean everybody can do it well.

Membership:

· We continue to have the same problems with the database we've had all along, making it difficult to give a precise number of members, plus other frustrations that come along frequently. Shelly is doing the best she can with it. We have had a few people with experience with contact mgt. databases volunteer to help determine an alternative. Ken Mayers had worked on that prior to the convention and I hope will be able to continue doing so.
· Lifetime memberships: 108 - Associate; 379 – Veteran; 10-12 new ones during convention
· Sustainers: 15 new ones during the convention for 125 total. 39 have been identified as having expired credit cards. Shelly and Ken Mayers are addressing that.
· New member zoom meetings had been held the first Tuesday of the month, but I've not been able to keep up with them. That will be something the new staffer will take on. Re: monthly meetings for chapter contacts and regional meetings, I've made a couple, but nothing regular
· As part of membership, I've conducted a survey of the National Projects and Working Groups to determine which ones are real and which are not. Consult the list at the end of this report.

Working Groups and National Projects:

"Archived" means the web page has been taken down but is still accessible if needed. "Active" may mean 'just barely' but minimally there is someone who will respond to inquiries.

<u>Working Groups</u>

No Drones: Active

DU, Cluster Bombs, and Landmine: Active, new contact people
GI Resistance: (also listed as a National Project)
Homeless Veterans: Active
Iran: Archived
SOAW/Latin America: Archived
Prosecute War Criminals: Archived
Military Trauma: Archived
Nuclear Abolition: Active
Veterans For Inner Peace: Active
China Working Group: Active
Be the Change Book Club: Active
Democracy and Peace: in formation

National Projects
Climate Crisis and Militarism: Active
Save Our VA: Active
Golden Rule Peace Boat: Active
Courage to Resist: (also listed as a Working Group)
Iraq Water Project: Active, new contact
Korea Peace Campaign: Active
Deported Veterans Advocacy Project: Active
Vietnam Agent Orange Relief & Responsibility Campaign: Active
Vietnam Full Disclosure Campaign: Active

Appendix 2: Peace and Democracy/Move to Amend Working Group formation

Mission: As members of Veterans For Peace, a humanitarian and educational organization dedicated to the abolishment of war, we seek to support the following three goals in the VFP Statement of Purpose in our efforts to end corporate rule and increase democracy:

1. To increase public awareness of the causes and costs of war;
2. To restrain our governments from intervening, overtly or covertly, in the internal affairs of other nations;
3. To abolish war as an instrument of national policy.

More concretely, our Peace and Democracy Working Group will address the following areas:

- Examine the history of how corporations came to govern U.S. politics and what the 28th Amendment to the Constitution, currently sponsored by 50+ members of the U.S. House will do to end corporate rule
- Collect educational materials on the movement to support that amendment for use within VFP
- Suggest, through messaging and other ways, how VFP can include the importance of ending corporate rule as a complimentary strategy to achieve our goal of abolishing war as an instrument of national policy.
- Consult with Move to Amend on ways to partner on joint projects

The Peace and Democracy working group is open to all VFP members who share the concerns expressed in our Mission Statement.

The Peace and Democracy/Move to Amend resolution introduced at the 2023 convention was co-sponsored by VFP members: Ray McGovern, Mark Foreman, Gene Marx, Doug Ryder, Joey King, Ed Flaherty, Barry Reisch, Tarak Kauff, John Amidon, and Jack Gilroy.

Appendix 3: Violence at Demonstrations letter, Mike Wong:

Dear fellow peace activists,

In talking with leaders of other peace organizations, it has come to our attention that in the last two years there have been a number of incidents in different cities where peace demonstrators have been violently physically attacked by counter-protesters. Over time a pattern has emerged.

Frequently there are one or more large male counter-protesters who confront or try to rush the demo but are blocked by a team of peace monitors who calmly form a line in front of the counter protesters. Following loud shouting and accusations from the counter protesters, one or more counter protesters will push or physically strike a peace monitor or other person who was simply standing there, causing injury, in some cases serious enough to need medical attention or hospitalization. There may be one or more such attacks at a single event. When the police arrive, no arrest is made because the counter protesters will claim that they were the victims of an attack by the peace protesters, and the counter protesters will lie outright. This produces a "he said, he said" situation which the police cannot tell who to believe. Attempts by peace activists to video tape confrontations have resulted in counter protesters charging forward and grabbing the cameras or phones. With no video evidence, the police do nothing. In some cases, online searches have found that the counter-protesters have a history of such violence, and getting away with it due to a lack of hard evidence. Some operate as groups, others as lone wolves.

As the US war on the world continues to escalate, we can expect tensions in the US to rise accordingly, and violent incidents may rise with it. The US is building alliances not only in Europe but also in Asia, where NATO is now preparing to militarily confront China. Between US racism and "human rights imperialism," we can expect rhetoric, passions, and tensions to escalate sharply in the next two years, and possible violent incidents to escalate with them.

Therefore, we suggest the following change in tactics for all our peace organizations: In addition to peace monitors as the movement has been using for decades, we should also have people assigned at future demonstrations to be video recorders. These Peace Recorders should always record any confrontations completely from beginning to end, and carefully stand at a safe distance - at least twenty feet or more - from any scene of confrontation. They must guard against having one or more counter-protesters rush them and seize their phone or camera, including retreating if necessary, putting their phone or camera away, retreating behind other peace protesters, or any other peaceful measures necessary to preserve their video evidence. We should make this a standard procedure at all future events. Traditionally, peace monitors have often had non-violence training, and it might be good to develop training and practice for Peace Recorders as well.

Mike W

Notes by Paul Cox

VETERANS FOR PEACE
BOARD of DIRECTORS
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
August 26, 2023

PRESENT: President Susan Schnall, Vice President Mike Wong, Secretary Paul Cox, Ellen Barfield, Gerry Condon, Josh Shurley, Nyamekye Anderson, Matt Southworth, Michael Dempsey, Ken Mayers, Nick Motter. Excused absence: Treasurer Mike Tork (in El Salvador)

Called to order at 12:05 CT

Members: 100 members were present at the beginning of the meeting and 131 later

Videos of Statement of Purpose, Code of Conduct and Indigeneity were played
Opening Statement: Susan Schnall welcomed members. She introduced board members, each of whom spoke briefly about their work within and other than on the VFP board.
Review of Submitted Documents:

Interim Director's Report: Mike Ferner: (APPENDIX 1)
President's Report, Transition Committee: Susan Schnall (APPENDIX 2)
Treasurer's Report: Mike Tork, presented by Ken Mayers (APPENDIX 3)
Membership Committee Report: Ken Mayers (APPENDIX 4)
Board Candidates: Ellen Barfield: Ellen read the candidates currently declared, and that any member in good standing can declare up through September 2.

Questions from Members:

John Wilks asked about the utility of continuing to have at-large members when the chapters could always use those members. Ken Mayers responded that the membership committee is trying to resolve that issue by first responding to new members, and welcoming them into VFP. Also trying to develop 25-mile radius data for each chapter to let the chapters know about people who have joined in their area.

John Falchi asked about whether we are getting support for big grant leads from other peace groups. Mike Ferner responded that we are moving towards standing up a development committee that has experience, and we know we need more of that type of effort. We do have a couple of grants in the works.

Bill Fowler asked about the count for current membership: Ken Mayers responded that the numbers are not so clear, because many members renew late or forget, but are still active. He estimated that people who have paid membership members within the last 3 years number about 4,500.

Sat Bir Kaur Khalsa asked for an update on the $10k challenge grant. Mike Ferner responded that we cannot know in real time, but will try to have a better tally during the fundraising pitch tonight. Guesses that we have at least $3k.

Resolutions and Bylaws: Josh Shurley: There are no proposed bylaw amendments, and seven proposed resolutions. Each of the seven has been recommended for approval by the board. Discussion was limited to a maximum 3 comments in favor and 3 opposed, if there are that many. He shared screen and summarized each resolution

Resolution 2023-01 Deported Veterans–Jan Ruhman–to restate the 8 USC. James Swarz recommended that the Res be changed due to the changes in the DoD policies that allows new recruits to be sworn in as citizens, and that it only include retroactive deportees. Jan responded that this resolution codifies in law the needed changes, whereas the new DoD policy can be changed. Straw poll: 89% yes, 1% no, 4% abstain.

Resolution 2023-02 Move to Amend–Mike Ferner–It will be discussed in workshop tomorrow. John Wilks does not see the relevance of this Res to our Statement of Purpose and will vote against. Matt Southworth is in favor because undue influence of government is extreme and this Res chips away at it. Regina Sneed will abstain because it opens the possibility of a constitutional convention that is close to having enough states in favor from the right. Mike Ferner responded that the constitutional convention is not addressed or made more likely by this res. David Cooley said that greed and money are the source of all evil, and this res would help with eliminate the notion that corporations are humans. Phil Phlager was opposed to aligning VFP with Move to Amend, and we should not get too closely involved. John Falchi was in favor, and thinks we must stand as a progressive force against Citizens United. Straw poll: 78% yes, 11% no, 12% abstain.

Resolution 2023-03: Preventing Gun Violence–Mike Felker– Regina Sneed spoke in favor because veterans have 50% of gun ownership, and because suicide rate among veterans is important. Only 7% of curing population of US have been in military. Sat Bir Kaur Khlsa was concerned about 'extreme risk' laws because of how the are used by the cops. Daniel Glover is not clear how the res will solve anything, and will vote against. Lola Moonfrog did not think this will solve the problem but the principles will put some juice into stopping gun violence. Jan Ruhman has seen military weapons coming into our society since he got back from Vietnam. Straw poll: 89% yes, 5% no, 5% abstain.

Resolution 2023-04: Removing Cuba From List of State Sponsored Terrorism–Bill Christofferson: bill urges Biden to remove Cuba from terrorism list. Obama took them off, but Trump put them back up. Expectations were that Biden would remove them, but he hasn't. Thought that if VFP puts up this res it will assist in that effort. Straw poll: 100% yes, 0% no, 1% abstain.

Resolution 2023-05: Move DoD Money to Social Welfare–Gary Butterfield: Jim Rine helped write the res, and supports Poor People's Campaign's and other group's efforts. Daniel Glover expressed that $100 billion reduction in DoD budget is not enough. Steve Morse and Ian Mooney spoke in favor. The res is not a final goal but moves the US forward. CCMP is working on a wider campaign. Straw poll: 95% yes, 2% no, 2% abstain.

Resolution 2023-06: PFAS Contamination in Okinawa–Masafume Teruya: Res calls for remediation and no further use of PFAS. Douglas Lummis, thought the resolution could be considered timid in that it recommends working with the military even though most Okinawans want the US military out all together. Also, testing shows that the PFAS is coming exclusively from the US bases. Straw poll: 99% yes, 1% no, 0% abstain.

Resolution 2023-07: 70th Anniversary of the Korean War–John Kim: Calls for Peace treaty to end Korean War, and remove US troops by 2025. Doug Lummis supported because the North Koreans have said repeatedly that all they want is a peace treaty. Paul Cox and Ellen Barfield indicated that the to in Whereas #2 should be changed to 'and'. Straw poll: 90% yes, 4% no, 5% abstain.

Committee Reports:

Advisory Board Committee–Mike Ferner: REported that we have 31 Advisory Board members, who can be viewed on the VFP website. Since April, he has sent personal emails and snail mail appeals. He has also updated contact information. Ralph Nader challenged other AB members to match his $10k matching fund challenge. Jackson Browne has responded with a $500 pledge, but no others have come back yet.

Communications Committee–Gerry Condon: reported that we have hired Chris Smiley part time to be on point, which is showing results. Efforts are ongoing to streamline and strengthen outgoing and internal communications. If you are interested in participating contact Gerry

Finance and Fundraising: Mike Tork

Executive Committee–Susan Schnall: reported that we meet twice each month. Board members are welcome to attend.

Meeting adjourned at 2:31 pm CT.

APPENDIX 1: INTERIM DIRECTORS REPORT TO MEMBERSHIP

The first thing any interim director of Veterans For Peace in mid-2023 must do is tell you how fortunate our beloved organization is to have the board and the staff we currently do. Every one of them currently serving has put their heart, their energy and an extraordinary amount of time into turning VFP around. Today's members, the next generation of veterans who will make up VFP, the American people (whether they understand it or not), and that very small but very precious bit of our planet's welfare that our collective efforts help defend, all owe these unsung people a mighty chorus of thanks.

When asked to add my bit, I hesitated, knowing what a difficult job it would be, and it certainly is. But Dan Ellsberg's heartfelt letter announcing his terminal illness and Phil Ochs' song "When I'm Gone," along with the support of my wife, Sue Carter, I decided to come aboard. Since then, I've had an unexpected amount of satisfaction, fulfillment and fun working with these dedicated people.

No report of my tenure from late March till now would be honest, however, without a word about what their work has prevented. We don't need to dwell on past failings, but neither should we ignore them if we want the organization to be accountable and open to its members.

When I started, VFP had $1,037 in savings, down from a high of $124,000 in January 2020 and not enough in checking for one month's expenses. Staffing was greatly reduced, and the E.D. recommended he be laid off for lack of funds. Virtually no money came in besides what faithfully arrived by itself. The board neglected its primary duty of fiscal responsibility. The previous board didn't even have a treasurer for nearly two years and did little to oversee the director's spending. I sent a detailed financial report to every member in April, and you can review it here.

But that was not the biggest problem. In a pinch, we know our members and supporters always respond generously when asked. The more fundamental problem was the immobilizing, toxic atmosphere generated by some board members and staff. Several current board members, during the first two years of their three-year terms, endured ongoing hostility and disrespect that should never be tolerated in any organization, much less Veterans For Peace. This atmosphere was so pervasive that even programs started years earlier, like the Golden Rule, were scorned and targeted for elimination. It

was as if much of the board and staff thought their job was to remake VFP into their own image and likeness regardless of who or what was thrown away, while ignoring any fiscal responsibility.

Now, on to the much more pleasant present and future, beginning with a huge "thank you" to VFP president Susan Schnall, the Executive Committee of Mike Wong, Paul Cox and Mike Tork, who volunteer uncounted hours of their time, the other board members who all contribute and our staff: Shelly Rockett who holds everything together, Gail Aquino, Becky Luening and Chris Smiley.

Communications

VFP e-News: Due to staff reductions, the e-News was reduced from weekly to monthly for six months until this May. With no additional staff, we managed to publish it three times in June and are now on a bi-weekly schedule for the time being, sending to all 22,000 members and supporters on our list. Becky Luening does the e-News on a part-time basis in addition to other duties. See the whole e-News archive at this link: https://www.veteransforpeace.org/pressroom/vfp-enews-archive

Website

In addition to her multiple other responsibilities, Shelly took this on as well. And while a web site can absorb all the time you want to put in it, she keeps it updated admirably.

Calls to Action

These are the regular messages that we send out weekly for our "Save Our VA" national project, to 1,050 members and supporters who've signed up for that issue. The last one saw 105 people click the link to contact their congressional representatives on important legislation. (If you'd like to participate in SOVA's October conference in D.C., go to https://www.veteransforpeace.org/take-action/stop-privatization-veterans-health-administration/sova-conference) With adequate staff we could send these out to all members and supporters on a regular basis on a variety of issues, much like the CodePink alerts many of us get frequently.

Social media: From the end of May until the end of June, we had no communications coordinator until we hired Chris Smiley half-time. He has upped our presence on every social media platform, and we even have a TikTok account now. Chris handles other comms tasks as well.

PR

One of the things VFP has not done for over a year has been to maintain relationships with editors and reporters and issue news releases. We will get back in the game in a small but dramatic way this fall, with the pro bono help of the firm that did Dan Ellsberg's publicity. They will do a limited number of releases and get them to reporters, editors and columnists with whom they've worked for years. The owner of the firm said it will be an honor to help VFP continue Dan's work.

Finance

This category is a mix of both expenses and revenues, which are basically the whole enchilada of an organization's fiscal health.

We've let two long-term, not very productive contracts expire and put the savings into improving the salary of a very underpaid communications contractor.

My first week on the job, I sent a "Hello" letter sent to members and supporters which brought in $10,000.

More significantly, thanks to "retread" board member, Matt Southworth and associate member, Zool Zoolkowitz, we now have the Cash Cadre's Dialing for Dollars project, with the ambitious and unprecedented goal of phoning everybody on our list. Additional dialers are very welcome.

And much more significantly, Matt, whose day job is in development for a major foundation, along with two new members with development experience, who joined during Golden Rule visits, have formed an embryonic development committee, something VFP has unfortunately done without for years. Development includes the entire range of fundraising tactics, plus the critical job of developing relationships with members and donors. Every serious NGO has a development program and director. We are now moving methodically towards that.

With the help of Jim Driscoll and Matt Hoh, we recently submitted a $50,000 proposal to Ben Cohen's foundation, including $20,000 for staff costs for a 6-month campaign called, "Pick A Number: How many dead Ukrainains are enough?" to highlight the need for a ceasefire, negotiations and cutting off weapons shipments.

Ralph Nader responded to a request for a $10,000 challenge pledge which we must meet during this convention to qualify for it.

Board members Ken Mayers and Paul Cox are working on a major gift and foundation grant, respectively.

Last but by no means least, the board needs to fill the Executive Director position which is another reason revenues must be increased

Expenses have been cut to the bare essentials and revenue is up enough to keep the lights on, but I need to emphasize we are doing that with less than half the staff we need, and they are working mightily to fill the gap. However, it would be a delusion to consider that way of "getting by" to be a sustainable strategy for an organization as important as VFP. To thrive and not merely survive, we need a significant increase in revenue.

Misc: Susan Schnall and I are in contact with Russian and Ukrainian war resistors and hope to be going public with the results soon

The Executive Committee is drafting a response to the NY Times hit piece on Jodie Evans' husband and CodePink

I've been on two planning calls so far, for a demonstration in DC when NATO meets there next July.

Advisory Board: Since April 1, I've sent them three individualized email communications and hard copies of the spring newsletter along with a note, a Climate Crisis and Militarism Project brochure and a return envelope hoping for good things. Contact information for several of them has been updated.

Ralph Nader taped a convention invitation that went out to our entire list
Last week, I sent a letter from Ralph to all A.B. members challenging them to match his $10,000 convention-only pledge so we can create a new matching fund that we will use for pledges from our list calling between now and the end of the year. So far, Jackson Browne's agent has responded he'll contribute $500 to that new match fund and a personal friend has pledged $2,000. Anything we raise at this convention will also go into that fund.

Membership: Shelly sends me a weekly report of everybody who joins, renews or donates and I've sent thank you notes on VFP note cards to 40+ donors so far, a small percentage of the total.
Ken Mayers and I have sent lists of members and donors within a specific radius to chapters and active members for organizing purposes.

The "Golden Rule" Great Loop cruise will be ending next month in Chicago. Along its 11,000-mile journey it has stopped in 100 ports, where roughly 1,000 supporters organized some 400 events, generated 80 news reports, over 40 mayoral proclamations and several new members.
One of the questions we got from members who are called by the Cash Cadre is, "what does VFP national do for chapters and members?" I put together this one-pager to answer some of those questions.

Since we lost a half-time membership coordinator in mid-May, I have to apologize for hit and miss staff participation in those calls, but they'll be back on track next month. This fall we'll be hiring a half-time membership organizer who will do real organizing with chapters and at-large members so we can improve recruitment and retention. In the meantime, Gail Aquino, Shelly's part-time assistant, acknowledges new and renewing members and donors, responds to chapter and member requests for materials and minds the store.

Convention: The only thing to say now that it's here is to give an enormous "Thank You" to Susan Schnall and several other board members, members of the convention committee, our staff, our speakers (none of whom are being paid) and key volunteers like Bob Krzewinski, Ellen Davidson, Sean Nestor, Dave Logsdon and Gary Butterfield. Collectively they put in literally thousands of hours to make it happen.

–end IED's Report–

APPENDIX 2: PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP

Welcome, VFP Members to the 2023 Business Meeting and national convention! We began 2023 with the resignation of Garett Reppenhagen, Executive Director, a national staff diminished by more than 50%, and limping along financially week to week. As we emerged from the pandemic we restarted our peace activism in person at meetings, in the streets, lobbying congress-as we also faced additional challenges. At the beginning of 2023 the board formed a Transition Committee responsible for stabilizing and moving the organization forward in the new year during the many distractions, threats, and turmoil in the world and U.S. Additionally, we had four resignations from the national board that required replacing. Major thanks to those who stepped up to keep the national organization moving along as the chapters, national projects, working groups continued their many activities for peace.

We live in the most unsettling, disturbing, destructive times and, yet despite all obstacles, our organization Veterans For Peace continues to move along dynamically because of the dedication and determination of our members. You show the proud veteran voice for peace in our country, in our world through national projects that depict the deleterious impact on climate from US militarism and the war industrial complex, you show your courage and determination for the values of VFP through work for peace in Ukraine, the Golden Rule travels through the Great Loop and trip to Cuba bringing messages of solidarity with the Cuban people, you show it through your hard work to save the VA for veteran's care and prevent privatization through corporate interest, you show it through your activism in the streets for peace. Thank you.

Mike Ferner was selected by the VFP Board to be the Interim Director as we reorganized staff roles and responsibilities to ensure our path toward a strong and vibrant veteran voice for peace. The board formed a Transition Committee composed of the ExComm, board and VFP members whose responsibility was to identify an Interim Director, to bring in funds, to analyze the structure, organization, and finances, identify past issues and problems. During the spring and early summer, we reorganized the national office, defining staff roles and responsibilities, hired a part time Communications Director, and brought in volunteers. Despite our small staff, the office continues to produce a weekly VFP Enews of chapter and project actions and announcements. We continue to hold open and public monthly board meetings that encourage attendance of members, listen to members' concerns, and maintain transparency of our proceedings. We track our finances almost daily and are deeply thankful to you—our members—for your ongoing enthusiastic support. Requests from other organizations for endorsement go through Mike Ferner and, when necessary, through the ExComm and full board. We have issued VFP Statements on the Russia-Ukraine conflict-condemning the Russia invasion and calling for immediate ceasefire, peace negotiations and stopping the sale of arms to Ukraine. Our VFP Statement of Purpose is clear: we are against war. We support war resisters from Russia and Ukraine.

Veterans For Peace strives through the collective efforts of members, chapters, national projects, working groups to build a culture of peace from our experiences of war and destruction. We inform the public of the causes and costs of war. Our work includes advocating for a dismantling of the war economy and continuous work to end all wars. We affirm our responsibility to work for world peace and abolish war as an instrument of national policy. Our members actively work to prevent the spread of militarism in our society, change U.S. foreign policy from endless war to diplomacy and to help our national leaders have a long-term vision of peace and justice. Our members believe one of the most important components to ending war is to work for peace.

A violent incident on May 19, 2023 occurred during an event sponsored by VFP chapter 027 and WAMM during which a VFP member was physically attacked and sent to the hospital for treatment of a shoulder dislocation and possible concussion. Members of the Board, the local chapter and Membership Committee conducted an intensive investigation of that specific incident and of a member's disruptive pattern of behavior over several years. Numerous written reports and interviews identified a pattern of behavior exhibited for over a decade that was clearly inconsistent with membership in Veterans For Peace. The organization's Bylaws and Policies were strictly followed. As stated in the VFP Policies and Procedures, "Conduct tending to injure the good name of the organization, disturb its well-being, or hamper it in its work, or that is otherwise harmful to VFP, our members, and supporters will not be tolerated."

The VFP Board of Directors voted unanimously to expel that individual from VFP membership and provide him the opportunity to appeal the decision before the board at its August 19, 2023 meeting. He turned down the right to appeal. To be clear, this expulsion was based on the member's history of actions contrary to those expressed by the VFP Statement of Purpose and Code of Conduct—not because of political differences that have always existed in VFP-and will continue to exist.

VFP is a broad base umbrella organization with members who have political differences that should be respected. The central theme of our Statement of Purpose is opposition to war and work for peace. Behavior that is contrary to the health and well-being of our members is not tolerated. VFP is a broad umbrella organization with members who have political differences. The central theme of our Statement of Purpose is opposition to war and work for peace. That clearly means that we oppose arms shipments abroad—munitions, tanks, depleted uranium, cluster bombs, fighter jets, killer drones, etc. We oppose profits for the war industry complex, the killing and destroying of life on this planet. We may not always agree on issues-political, economic, social-but we do agree that we are Veterans For Peace-Peace at Home and Peace Abroad.

There were concerns voiced from a few VFP folks about not producing anything more than the required Business Meeting this August and not attempting to coordinate a full convention. Yet, the convention Committee came together in May and began outlining a convention program that would consist of three days; cut down the number of workshops to six, have a Welcome-Opening on Friday evening, keynote speakers on Saturday evening, and a Poetry Session and Music Session, with a closing on Sunday, August 27th . We also needed committees for: Resolutions, Bylaws, Nominating Committee and Awards Committee. And, we're dependent on volunteers for our many technical responsibilities! This convention is the culmination of many hours of work by VFP members-making suggestions for programming, asking friends and colleagues to participate and speak. Special thanks to Shelly Rockett for her non-stop dedication, suggestions, organization, and good humor through the most difficult and stressful past few months.

VFP has joined with other organizations to support war resisters and request that humanitarian organizations and governments provide a safe haven for their sanctuary and support. We write as an organization of former soldiers and veterans of US wars in Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan, and various other U.S. military interventions, who oppose militarism and war. We support the right of conscientious objectors, potential conscripts and soldiers to refuse to participate in war. We urge governments to grant visas and humanitarian entry to war resisters and call upon civil society networks to offer them sanctuary and social support.

Many thanks and special recognition to Helen Jaccard and Gerry Condon for their incredible dedication and work taking the Golden Rule-a 34 foot wooden ketch- on her voyage around the Great Loop: of the central, southern and eastern United States, making 100 ports-of-call, distributing the messages of nuclear disarmament and support for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. VFP members, peace and social justice organizations, local mayors and city councils have issued declarations of support for the boat and mission. The Golden Rule also sailed to Cuba on a mission of solidarity with the Cuban people and demanding an end to the US blockade. VFP is embarking on a new National Project: Silence the Drums of War with a walk for peace across the United States along route 66, starting from Los Angeles to Chicago and then to Washington, DC to arrive for the 75 th NATO anniversary summit in July, 2024.

Thanks to Mike Ferner and Matt Southworth, the board has formed a Development Committee to be responsible for Fundraising for VFP.

We spent many hours last year transitioning to a new system EveryAction that was supposed to simplify work from two systems into one. Board members have reached out to EveryAction numerous times—without much of a response. You who receive chapter reports identify the problems in your monthly members reports. The board members agreed to wait until after the convention to tackle EveryAction. The decision to move to EveryAction was made about three years ago. The prior national staff spent a year and hundreds of hours to implement this system which has never worked well for us. Our work begins again in September.

A reminder to those of you who are interested in the issues and deliberations of the national VFP board: the monthly meetings are open and we welcome your attendance, ideas, concerns. The meetings

are on zoom-regular meeting format so all participants are seen if they wish. They are the third Saturday of the month at 12:40pm ET. The zoom link is posted on the VFP website and in the Enews.
Thank you all for the work you do to save the planet and all living things.

–end President's Report–

APPENDIX 3: TREASURER'S REPORT

This report will focus on both the finances of VFP and the overall health. I am happy to report that both are doing well.

Over the last 18 months, VFP has transitioned from a dysfunctional, and somewhat toxic group, to one that is cordial, respectful, and works well together. The work of the board is easier, and far more productive, when we enjoy working with each other. The importance of that can not be overstated. Our current President deserves a great deal of credit for moving us in that direction.

VFP's problems didn't start a few years ago but are a result of many years of neglect and poor oversight. The current board is not interested in pointing fingers, but more about how we can overcome those problems, move forward, and make VFP stronger than ever.

Regarding finances, two things had to happen. First, expenses needed to be reduced without hindering our mission, and second, fundraising needed to be supercharged after years of stagnation.
A great deal of time was spent by the Office Manager and board members (thanks Paul and Ken) going through the budget line item by line item, making cuts where appropriate. We will continue to monitor the budget ensuring it is as lean as possible without affecting our ability to function. Because of this effort, and staff reductions, monthly expenses are at an all-time low.

A big part of lowering our monthly expenses is due to staff reductions. Because the board and members stepped up to fill those positions and tasks we were able to continue our work. Clearly, we can't do that long-term so more support staff needs to be added, but having a fully engaged board and membership makes for a much stronger, and more effective organization. I see a mix of additional staff, an active board, and membership as the best-case scenario.

Thanks to our Interim Executive Director, Mike Ferner, and our newest board member Matt Southworh, fundraising is in full swing and making real progress. I am sure Matt and Mike will share how that is going. In addition, many of our members have stepped forward to help with that task.
And let's not miss the opportunity to raise funds during our convention. Our convention is our opportunity to share the good work we did over the year.

Everyone should encourage their friends and fellow members to "attend" the convention this year. The convention committee put together a great program with some outstanding speakers, workshops, poetry, etc. So please, let's make this the best-attended virtual convention ever! I registered for the convention even though I will be in El Salvador during that period. I will watch the recorded sessions when I return.

And come prepared to meet Ralph Nader's 10K challenge. Have those checkbooks and credit cards ready to go at the right time. We continue to grow our savings account, something we set as a priority. Currently, we have 36K put away for emergencies. This may not sound like a lot but keep in mind that less than 18 months ago we had nothing in savings and weren't even sure we would be able to make payroll. A stressful time that is thankfully behind us. The plan is to continue growing our savings.

We have a new experienced and talented communications lead, Chris Smiley. He hit the ground running and, among other things, is getting the word about VFP out there. Name recognition is so important if you want to grow and raise funds so his job is important.

And speaking about getting our name out there, the Golden Rule is doing an amazing job of that while also bringing in new members. And their anti-nuclear message is timely and vital. The long-term plan now that we are on a much more stable footing is to continue increased fundraising, backfill staff positions including a permanent ED, concentrate on building our membership and support the work our chapters are doing.

I feel that VFP is back on the right road and headed in the right direction.

Our future is getting brighter.

CURRENT BALANCES (8-17-23)

Commerce Bank Operating Fund
$43,449 As of convention date due to registration: $78k
Commerce Bank Restricted Fund
$22,973
CapOne - Business Savings
$31,069
Edward Jones
$5,332
CapOne - Zinn Fund
$29,924

July Actuals
Membership: $6,821
Donations: $8,570
Other Income: $11,936
Expenses: $25,849

JANUARY 2023 TO JULY 2023
(7 months)

	Average/ Month	Total (Jan - July)
Membership Dues	$7,893	$ 55,254
Donations	20,737	145,157
Other Income	4,404	30,830
Expenses	30,151	211,056

–end Treasurer's report–

APPENDIX 4: MEMBERSHIP REPORT

This will be a little different from the usual Membership Committee report because first I'm going to tell you about what I wish I could tell you. Then I'm going to tell you what, in fact, I can tell you. And, finally, I'm going to tell you what the Membership Committee is working on to get from the current reality to the desired state of information.

I'd love to be able to tell you accurately and in great detail

1. How many fully functioning chapters we have and what their primary activities are;
2. How many active, dues paid-up, members we have, both in toto and in by chapter;
3. How many technically lapsed but nonetheless continuing members we have;
4. How many members are actively involved in national projects and working groups;
5. How many members are otherwise involved in the nuts and bolts of keeping this organization going.

Unfortunately, most of such data are not currently available.

As many of you know, at the beginning of 2022 VFP signed a contract adopt EveryAction as our new database solution, with plans to move from our two previous database applications, Salsa Engage and eTapestry, in March 2022. Database transitions are always difficult, but this one has been more difficult and frustrating than most, in part because of some serious bugs that developed in the EveryAction software affecting all of their customers just as the transition was taking place. The membership module was especially impacted. Significant data was lost in the transition — some

temporarily, some permanently. In October 2022, the Executive Director reported, ”EveryAction database is operating properly. We are fixing records one at a time at this point and can look over chapter rosters to help isolate problems and run reports to solve similar issues.” However, the membership module continued to be problematic. In March of this year, when the VFP Transition Committee met for the first time, EveryAction continued to have a problem tracking membership, but at least now chapters can access a record of members going back 10 years so that they can encourage lapsed members to renew their membership. From its inception, the Transition Committee has given some consideration to replacing EveryAction but ultimately concluded that serious investigation of alternatives should be deferred at least until after this convention.

A thorough review of EveryAction reports and the latest available Chapter Contacts list from the VFP website reveals the following troubling data:

Whereas in the final contact list before transitioning to EveryAction there were contacts for 124 chapters, there are now contacts for 99.

There are 11 chapters that are on the website contact list but for which there are no EA reports. At the same time, there are 11 chapters for which there are EA reports but which are not listed on the website. At least one of these reports, Chapter 22, has the content for Chapter 21. And at least one report has no data in it.

There are 8 chapters which are neither on the website nor reported on by EveryAction.
In the case of chapters that no long appear on the chapter list but for which there are EA reports, it may be possible to revive and restore the chapters by contacting selected members shown on the EA reports.

Given all these problems in the data, about the best we can do to provide current numbers is the set of estimates made by Jules Vaquera for Interim Director Mike Ferner in May of this year.

Membership:

Membership report May 2023
New: 25 this month
Total: 2121 (may not be complete count)
Lapse in last year: 1481
Lapsed in last 2 months: 136
Renewed this month: 33
Donors new this month: 46

The committee has been taking steps to gather the desired data, starting with confirming the number of functioning chapters.

Early in 2022, all the then current board members agreed to take on the task of contacting 10 or so chapter contacts out of the 124 chapters then listed on the VFP Website. Board members were tasked with gathering the following information.,

1. How often does your chapter meet?
2. How many people normally attend these meetings, including associate members?
3. How many people do you consider to be active chapter members?
4. What are the top three projects on which the chapter is working?
5. Find out chapter zoom meeting info and links
6. Find out if chapters have a webpage or social media

Here is a status report on that effort. 124 chapters are listed

39 are “done” — i.e. contact has been made and at least some questions answered

34 have been “reassigned” — i.e. reassigned to new board members to continue eliciting responses

28 have received “No response” — i.e. emails were sent but no response has been received

9 have “no response listed” — i.e. responses were received but the information has not been recorded on the file

6 chapters were never assigned to a board member but we do have an EA report for one of them,.

6 are “No info” — i.e. it is not known whether contact has been attempted 2 are international chapters composed of ex-pats

The committee has decided to give top priority for the next month to following up on the 28 "no response" cases. We will divide those among the committee members and provide EA reports if available so that we can contact members beside the listed contacts.

Other items:

Since Jules's recent resignation from the staff, there has been some confusion about who is hosting regional meetings, new member meetings, and independent member meetings and when they are being held. We are working out those details with Shelly.

The committee chair is now checking the Membership g-mail account previously managed by Jules and will do so until a new Membership staff position is created.

–End Membership Report–

Submitted by Paul Cox

VETERANS FOR PEACE
BOARD of DIRECTORS
MEETING MINUTES
July 15, 2023

PRESENT: President Susan Schnall, VP Mike Wong, Treasurer Mike Tork, Secretary Paul Cox, Interim Director Mike Ferner (came late). **Board Members:** Ellen Barfield, Gerry Condon, Mike Tork, Michael Wong, Kenneth Mayers, Josh Shurley, Enya Anderson, Matt Southworth, Mike Dempsey. **Excused Absence:** Nick Mottern, Matt Southworth. **Absence:** Brian Trautman

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tarak Kauf, Ray McGovern, Jim Brasile, Jim Pendaru, Ellen Davidson, Gerald Hasset, Steve Morse, Eduardo Cohen, Alice Slater, Zool Zulkowitz, Alan Batten, Helen Jaccard, Judith Williams Sandoval.

PUBLIC COMMENT: 12:46 pm ET. Ray McGovern expressed his unprecedented concern about nuclear war, partially because of Biden's assertion that Putin has already lost the war. We have run out of 155mm ammo, so as a stop gap, we will send them cluster munitions. The next toy on our shelf is tactical nukes. Jim Brasile expressed his respect for Ray McGovern's continued activism. Jim Pendaru agreed with Ray, that the inmates have taken over the asylum, and expressed that we do not have the luxury of time any longer. If the people lead, the congress critters will follow. Ellen Barfield mentioned Sept 17 Climate Change demo. Ken Mayers mentioned that tomorrow, July 16 is the 83d anniversary of Trinity Day, the first Nuclear explosion.
Board Meeting convened: 1:01 pm ET
Statement of Purpose audio and **Indigeneity** video were played.

Checkins
June 17, 2023 Minutes Approved
July 15, 2023 Agenda Approved

President Schnall welcomed Matt Southworth to the VFP National Board–once again!

Interim Director's Report, Mike Ferner (Absent, but written ED report is attached as **Appendix 1)**: Susan summarized: staff roster has stabilized, and we have some funds in both our operating and savings accounts. Chris Smiley has joined the VFP Staff, and we are trying to bring in someone to handle membership. Matt Southworth has been working on development with the Cash Cadre to call sustaining donors, and now working on general donors (people who have given recently [LYBUNTS–Last

Year But Unfortunately Not This year–and SYBUNTS–Some Year But Unfortunately Not This year]). We have four new lifetime members. Website has major changes. Membership brochure is being updated and will be available for download soon. Mike has made a connection with the Ellsberg family and former communication person who will be working as a volunteer with us when she comes back.

Finance Report, Mike Tork: expressed appreciation to Matt Southworth for his hard and smart work. We now have a development committee, and it is working well.
Accounts: checking, $44k; savings, $31k; Edward Jones, $5k; Zinn Fund, $29; other restricted funds, $33k. Our accounting firm has already given us the June Financials–a real change from the past. When we had to wait for several months for each month's financials.

Convention Update, Susan Schnall:

- Convention VFP Enews went out announcing August 25-27 dates.
- Keynote speakers: Clare Daly and Jeffrey Sachs; Kathy Kelly to close out convention.
- Board Candidates deadline September 3 (7 days after convention)
- Resolution deadline July 27: only one received at this point.
- Bylaws deadline July 27

Reports from National Projects/Working Groups/VFP chapters

- Veterans and Labor for Sensible Priorities, Steve Morse: proposed a Labor Working Group, especially consisting of working or retired union members. He regularly meets with USLaborAgainstWar. Unions are on the move (UPS, Starbucks, Amazon, etc.) and we need to open communication with them and support their efforts. Just Transition is an important intersection for VFP with labor in solidarity, military industries, toxic substances, fossil industries, etc.
- Veterans Walk For Peace, Tarak Kauf: partially inspired by the Golden Rule's successes, he proposed "Silence the Drums of War: Veterans Walk For Peace", which will be walking our talk w/speakers. Total distance 2815 miles, and would take about 6 months to organize and 6 more months of walking at 15 miles/day, connecting with local media, filmed for documentary. Mike Dempsey asked about plans for security. Gerry thinks that this might be more expected from a younger organization, and commitments from younger folks, and the need to plan around the weather. Paul suggested that age is a factor with VFP participants, and that perhaps this should be a coalition rather than just our gig with invited participants. Susan suggested that the board support this project and ask for a report and perhaps a motion from Tarak in August or September. Motion Ken Mayers, second Gerry Condon, that the board supports a proposal for a walk for peace, and that the supporters draft a formal proposal to be considered at a future board meeting. Passed.
- Veterans Oppose Cluster Bombs for Ukraine, Gerry Condon sent around a **draft** statement on the Cluster bombs and DU weaponry, and reservists being sent to Ukraine and eastern Europe. Excomm will review and approve
- Golden Rule, Gerry: GR has gone all the way to Bath and now back in NY on the Erie Canal, and has a large number of successful events including a banquet in Portland by Chapter 1. At end of Great Loop, they need to decide what to do with the boat, but most likely truck back return to Humboldt Bay. Insurance for this coming year will be $11,203, and Gerry suggests the GR share 50-50 with VFP, unless VFP will take it all. However, our MOU commits VFP to pay for insurance even though we have had to depend on the GR committee during the last period of time to help with our financial shortages. Motion Cox, second Ken, to pay the entire amount in two installments. Passed. As the Great Loop is ending, the GR Comm and Excomm and other

interested board members will work to discuss the future strategy for the GR and review the MOU.

- Rally in Biden's Hometown for Peace in Ukraine Coalition, Gerry Condon: Sep 21-Oct 8 are Days of Action that will have a number of events around the Ukraine war and banning nukes. And we should mobilize for these events. Ellen Barfield mentioned that Sep 21 is the end of the climate summit and we need to coordinate with the climate crisis periods. Motion Susan Schnall, second Ellen Barfield to support the two weeks of action and getting information out to chapters. Passed. Gerry asked for board members to join various planning meetings meetings

ExComm Report, Susan Schnall:

VFP Letter to Support Russian and Ukraine Resisters: we have put out a position statement in support of resistors, and we will be writing specific letters in support of some Russian resisters to leave Kazakhstan where they are stuck. Ellen Barfield mentioned some Russian soldiers and draft resistors have been turned away from our borders by immigration officials. Gerry mentioned that we need to be careful to support both Russian and Ukrainian resisters to avoid being charged with being Putinophiles. He liked the statement from the Excomm.

Regular Meeting adjourned 3:03

Executive Session: Convened at 3:04 to discuss issues related to individuals and current VFP members Report and recommendations from Membership Committee. Decision made during Executive Session: VFP Chapter 27 member Andy Berman will be expelled from Veterans For Peace, and he will be dropped from any listserves.

VETERANS FOR PEACE
Board of Directors Meeting
Saturday, June 17, 2023
Meeting Minutes

PRESENT: President Susan Schnall, VP Mike Wong, Treasurer Mike Tork, Secretary Paul Cox. Board Members, Board members Ken Mayers, Gerry Condon, Michael Dempsey, Enya Anderson. Interim Director Mike Ferner. Excused Absence: Ellen Barfield.

Members: Ellen Davidson, Hellen Jaccard, Gerry Condon, Gerald Hasset, Hal Muskat, John Kim, Rachel Clark, Dominick Favuzzi, Zool Zulkowitz, Regina Sneed, Nancy River, Mike Hastie

Moment of silence for Dan Ellsberg, 12:50
Statement of Purpose, Code of Conduct, and Indigenous Worldview videos were played
PUBLIC COMMENTS: 12:45 pm ET

Hal Muskat appreciated the videos.
Zool thanked us for the moment of silence for Dan Ellsberg
Gerald Hasslet wondered about a letter he sent to the national office but has not heard back.

Board Meeting Called to Order: 1:05 pm ET
Checkins
Minutes, May 23, 2023: motion Nick Mottern, second Mike Dempsey to approve
Agenda, June 17, 2023: motion Ken Mayers, second Mike Dempey to approve

Board Appointment: motion Susan, second Ken, to appoint Joshua Shurley to the VFP Board: approved by all present.

I**nterim Director Report,** Mike Ferner: 'Dialing for Dollars' effort led by Matt Southworth has started, thanking sustainers (with soft ask) (Zool is coordinating). Also two other professional fundraiser types have offered to help due to their exposure to the Golden Rule, and Gerry and Helen's recruitment effort. Stand by for some serious successes! MF is working on a Case Statement for VFP with Jim Driscoll in pursuit of a grant for $50k. We are endorsing (a la royal warrants by Her Majesty the Queen of England) a CBD soda that will have our Coat of Arms (logo) and a QR code that should eventually deliver some royalties to the distinctly non-royals. We are also going to pursue a CREDO grant; however, success with that one requires that we first get on the nomination to the list, and then collect enough votes to win the election lottery–possibly for a $30k-ish grant. Mr Ferner acknowledged the terrific job Shelly is doing. Samantha Ferguson will be leaving our employ on July 10. vJules will return to work on Monday following a leave of absence. Mike has hired Chris Smiley to take over from Samantha as Comms Director, working part time. Becky Luening and Shelly have stepped in to keep the homepage updated, such as taking down Memorial-Day article, adding Matt Hoh's article, etc. Our collection of statements on Ukraine have been put into one subpage. Enews will be coming out weekly (or nearly so) instead of the recent monthly schedule. The Advisory Board has gotten a hard-copy of the most recent newsletter along with a pitch for assistance and a note on the Golden Rule. Mr Ferner thanked Ellen Davidson and Sean Nestor for their help with the Convention planning. An associate member from NJ, who has been a good donor to VFP, would like to have a VFP member to participate in a webinar on Italian soldiers who refused to fight for the fascists in WWII, and were interred. <<Gerry Condon would be willing to help with that effort, and has some contact with the Italian peaceniks.>> <<Nick Mottern would like to get an Advisory Board member to assist with the issue of depleted uranium weapons being considered to be sent by the US to the Ukraine War. Mike Ferner, has communicated with AB and asked for a brief statement in support of VFP. He will also ask them for a statement about DU.>>

Convention Update, Susan Schanll: we currently have 62 registrants for the Aug 25-27 convention. So far, our keynote speakers are Clare Daly and Kathy Kelly. Please register; help find board candidates (four openings this year); and submit bylaw changes, resolutions, or workshop applications–all available on our website: www.veteransforpeace.org.

Membership Committee, Ken Mayers: Motion Ken Mayers, second Gerry Condon, to accept application from Chapter 75 to change name to "Mark Von Hagen-George Mizo Phoenix Chapter". Mark Von-Hagen taught history at Columbia then at Arizona State University, specializing in Russian history. He testified to Congress many times. He founded the office for veteran and military academic engagement at Arizona State. Using his his clout as chairman of the history department, theVFP Phoenix Chapter was invited to some of his classes and to other professors to talk about our roles as Veterans For Peace. He really took the chapter under his wing and we owe a lot to him. That's why the chapter voted to amend the chapter name. He passed away in 2019 at 65.

Finance Report, Mike Tork: VFPtreasurer@gmail.com. Thanked Mike Ferner for his help with the financial situation. And also thanked Shelly for her hard work. Also, thanked Matt Southworth for his strategy and work. As of 5 days ago we had $41k in our checking account, and moved $10k into savings for a current amount of $31k in savings, and $5k in Jones account. $30k in Zinn.

Reports from National Projects/Working Groups:

Golden Rule/Great Loop, Helen Jaccard: Ms Jaccard showed some slides about the progress of the GR, including, in NY, 13 delegations to the UN Mission, was given a banner of flags from 68 countries that have signed non-proliferation treaty. They also met with the Cuban delegation to the UN. She related a number of other events the GR has participated in. The full report will be up on the Golden Rule website shortly: vfpgoldenruleproject.org. There may be a new chapter forming in Rhode Island, partially helped by the connections made during GR events. Tomorrow there will be an event, Father's Day For Peace in Boston. Fundraising has been quite good; they raised nearly $1k yesterday, and have

$40k in the bank. However, it will take about $15 to truck the boat back to the west coast, and the boat's insurance has nearly doubled for next year. <<Mike Ferner asked about insurance inflation. Helen said there has been a 30% increase in general, but thinks the insurers are gouging us. The GR and VFP will be looking for alternative policies. >> <<Gerry said GR has been lucky to have great captains and crews.>> <<Ken said Membership Committee is interested in the data about VFP-type contacts the GR has made.>> <<Nick Mottern congratulated GR for weathering any hostility from within our ranks.

Ban Killer Drones/Merchants of Death, Nick Mottern: Ban Killer Drones is working to develop an international treaty to ban weaponized drones. They attended the Vienna Peace in Ukraine conference early this month at which Ann Wright spoke eloquently about the issue and Gerry and Helen supplied some buttons. He expects that current tactical experimentation of weaponized drones will spread until everyone has them. And as AI expands its capabilities, the danger will be compounded. He asks for assistance in making contacts in other countries with opponents of drones. The Merchants of Death Tribunal will begin with a series of 30-minute episodes laying out the crimes of Lockheed-Martin, Raytheon, etc, and how they have been accelerating development of drone warfare. The European Center for Constitutional Rights is working to hold the 3 biggest French weapons makers for selling arms to Saudi Arabia for use against Yemen, and will try to wrest funds from those weapons manufacturers to help rebuild cities destroyed. The Vienna Conference on Peace in Ukraine had mixed outcomes; however, many countries look to the US for inspiration going back to WWI. He thinks our job is to oppose weapons making and weapons shipments, and that we need to be in the street, which will help the European forces to oppose their own country's actions.

China Working Group, Mike Wong: CWG has been very busy with speaking gigs and interviews. They also have a YouTube channel. His discussion included a map of the US bases in the Pacific and Asia, essentially surrounding China. China has around 300 nuclear weapons with the warheads separated from the delivery system, even though it would only take about 100 to destroy the humans and many other species. The US, on the other hand, has 5,000-6,000 warheads. CWG recommends: No Arms to Taiwan.

Korea Peace Campaign, John Kim: KPC's mission is to achieve a peaceful end to the Korean War. To that end they do educational work and advocacy. It is one of the oldest VFP projects, starting in 2002 after Bush's Axis of Evil formulation. They oppose extension of US military bases in SKorea, to end the longest war in US history. July 26-28 will be the National Mobilization to End the Korean War (also listed on the Code Pink website), which currently has 200 registered attendees. There will be a press conference in DC on July 27, and a major conference July 28 at George Washington University with expert speakers on the war and the dangers of nuclear war. FMI: www.Koreapeaceacton.org. Please KPC@veteransforpeace.org.

SOVA, Paul Cox: Save Our VA continues to keep up a strong pace of actions aimed at preventing privatization and degradation of the Veterans Administration. So far this year they have issued 7 CTAs (Calls To Action) and 1,150 responders have sent nearly 3,000 letters to Members of Congress advocating for the VA. There have also been 7 Updates corresponding to the CTAs sent to their mailing list. They also use VFP's social media (Facebook & Twitter) for posting the CTAs. They have met with staffers of 7 Representatives, 5 of whom are HVAC members. Planning the in-person conference in DC scheduled for 15-19 October. Bruce Caruthers has done 2 radio shows and, with Suzanne Gordon of VHPI, did a presentation at the MEDICARE For All conference.

Japan Peace Speaking Tour, Rachel Clark: Next trip will be in September. Rachel first got involved with VFP in 2015 for the Okinawa and JeJu Island delegation. They were very busy due to the welcoming events by local groups and media, but mainland Japanese media ignored it. Since the Japanese constitution is run by the US, they are essentially a client state. So she started to organize tours (six before) within Japan to educate the public about the situation. The Samual Lawrence foundation in California has helped with funds, and Tarak Kauf also raised funds. The next trip in September wil have Chuck Searcy, Pat Elder, and Jenny Pacanowski as delegates. PFAS is an issue that is igniting throughout Japan at this time, with US military spills, which includes not only the pollution of drinking water but also fish. The July NY Chapter meeting will have a guest speaker, Professor Kunitoshi Sakurai, Okinawa Univ. on the PFAS topic.

ExComm Report, Susan Schnall:

VFP Statement to Support Ukraine-Russian Resisters

VFP Statement re Minneapolis Incident: Motion Schnall, second Tork: The Veterans For Peace Board of Directors condemns the violence that occurred on May 19, 2023 at an event sponsored by the Minneapolis VFP Chapter and WAMM at which Medea Benjamin was the featured speaker. Medea was verbally assaulted and her cell phone was forcibly removed by a counter demonstrator who repeatedly pointed his finger at her, verbally threatening her. This same demonstrator attacked a VFP member who had fallen to the ground. He then pummeled the victim who suffered multiple bruises, shoulder dislocation and possible concussion. Verbal and physical violence have no place in Veterans For Peace. We unequivocally condemn that violence and those who supported it by 1) standing by and allowing it to occur and 2) supporting the perpetrator of this violent action.

Motion Gerry Condo, second Mike Wong, to table action until Executive Session

Next Meeting: July 16, 2023, 12:40 pm ET

Adjournment: 4:08 pm ET

Submitted by Paul Cox

VETERANS FOR PEACE
Board of Directors Meeting
Saturday, May 20, 2023
Meeting Minutes
[posted June 17, 2023]

PRESENT: President Susan Schnall, VP Mike Wong, Treasurer Mike Tork, Secretary Paul Cox. Board members Enya Anderson, Ken Mayers, Gerry Condon, Ellen Barfield, Michael Dempsey. Interim Director Mike Ferner.

Members: Ellen Davidson, Tarak Kauf, Gerald Hasset, John Amidon, Mike Madden, Mike Marceau, Janet Weil, Elliott Adams, Barry Ladendorf, Barry Riesch, Helen Jaccard, Rachel Clark, Denny Riley, Josh Shurley, Doug Rawlings.

12:40pm ET Open Zoom meeting: the Statement of Purpose, Code of Conduct, and Indigeneity videos were played.

Public Comment: Barry Riesch: member since 1991, stressed that VFP's Statement of Purpose requires that we are opposed to war and VFP members should not take positions in opposition to this while representing themselves as speaking for VFP. Differing opinions are fine, but not the position of VFP. The version of his statement accepted by the board at this meeting is below in the ExComm report. Mike Madden, Elliott Adams, John Amadon, and Tarak Kauf supported Barry's statement.

Janet Weil indicated that the issue is broader than just different political opinions on the war and extends to people who behave badly within the organization.

Tarak Kauf gave kudos to Gerry Condon and Helen Jaccard's work on the Golden Rule, and to Mike Tork's work on the playground in Sasabe, Mexico.

Board of Directors Call to Order: 1:12pm ET

Checkins

Board Minutes, April 25th, 2023: Motion Ellen Barfield, 2d Mike Wong. Accepted.

Agenda, Motion Mike Dempsey, 2d Enya Anderson. Accepted.

Interim Director Report, Mike Ferner: See **Appendix 1** for Mike's written report. He has promulgated a job posting for a new Communications Director, attached as shown in **Appendix 2.** Open question: Does board want to move some overloaded Cloud-stored videos to YouTube? TBD.

Virtual Newsletter can be found here

Finance and Fundraising, Mike Tork: As of May 15, we have $24,000 in Checking, $21,000 in Savings, $5,000 in Edward Jones, $23,000 in restricted funds and $30,000 in Zinn Fund. About $14,000/month in payroll, and August will be 3/2 of that since there are three pay periods. Large donors will be approached soon, and Paul and Ken have been talking to lapsed and new sustainers.

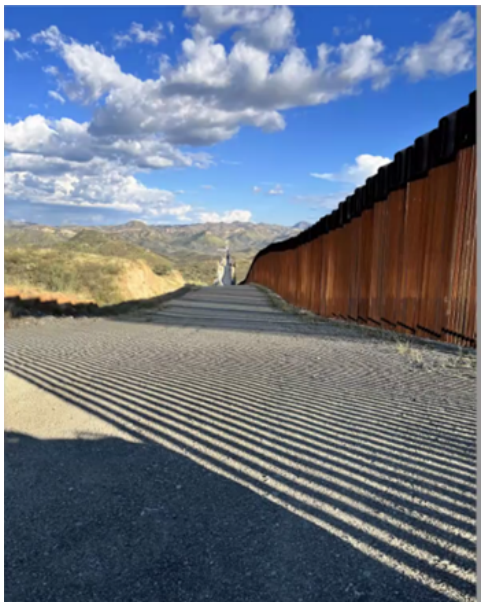
Convention Committee: Registration is open, sign up here! If you are interested in presenting, becoming a board member, submitting a resolution or bylaws change, or nominating someone for an award, go to https://www.vfpconvention.org/faq. Workshop proposals are due by June 24, Bylaws and Resolutions deadlines TBD, and Award nominations due by July 27.

VFP Projects:

Climate Crisis and Militarism, Beyond Earthday Webinar, Janet Weil: You can watch the webinar from the slider on VFP's homepage: www.veteransforpeace.org. There will be a gallery of photos on the CCMP homepage: www.vetereansforpeace.org/take-action/climatecrisis. CCMP will not send a delegate to COP 28 this summer but will be protesting. She expressed thanks to the board and membership for support for CCMP. The slideshow is available, too. FMI: climate@veteransforpeace.org

Golden Rule, Helen Jaccard: Her report can be found here as a pdf: https://vfpgoldenruleproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Golden-Rule-VFP-BoD-for-Web-2023-Q1-to-5-14-23-Report.pdf FMI: https://vfpgoldenruleproject.org/ . Mike Ferner thanked the GR folks for their work and is happy that the era of treating the GR like the "Rodney Dangerfield Project" of VFP is gone. Gerry complimented Ellen Barfield for her organization of the Baltimore stop. After the GR leaves NY soon, it will be stopping at many locations along the upper Eastern Seaboard, where VFP and other organizations have been organizing events for months. You can support the Golden Rule by donating to VFP in their name to offset VFP's costs at www.veteransforpeace.org , or to the Golden Rule directly

Sasabe Mexico Playground, Mike Tork: Mike showed several photos of the construction playground, and sang the praises of Dora Rodriquez, an El Salvadoran refugee, in Tucson. She is the reason he got involved. He also is grateful for the School of American Watch, for their support for the playground. There is a covered plaza for the playground. He thanked a number of VFP members for their help.



The other reality

ExComm Report, Susan Schnall: Motion on unsanctioned representation as VFP submitted by Barry Riesch and supported by the ExComm: Motion Ellen Barfield, second Mike Dempsey, to pass. Discussion: Gerry, suggests that we include in the motion the language of our statement of Purpose that opposes war: accepted and included below. Few typos repaired, also.

- *As members of Veterans For Peace (Full and Associate) we stand unified in our opposition to war in all its manifestations. IN PARTICULAR, OUR STATEMENT OF PURPOSE COMMITS US TO "RESTRAIN OUR GOVERNMENT FROM INTERVENING, OVERTLY AND COVERTLY, INTO THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER NATIONS. If we allow ourselves to be torn apart from the inside because of divisiveness on issues related to war contrary to our Statement of Purpose, we stand a chance of damaging our integrity as a voice of non-violence and opposition to war. Veterans For Peace is the largest national veterans' organization whose primary purpose is abolishing war. It would be a grave mistake if we lost our effectiveness and voice.*

All members of VFP are free to think and speak whatever they want in their personal lives but in regard to war we ask that if any member is speaking contrary to our Statement of Purpose they not identify themselves as a member of Veterans For Peace nor use our VFP logo. Also, any unsanctioned members or working groups identifying themselves as Veterans For Peace while speaking contrary to our Statement of Purpose, have created websites, are conducting webinars, etc. shall immediately shut down such sites and cease and desist."

Board resignations: Susan reported that after Jeremiah Knowles resigned from the Board, Susan and Mike Wong are going to keep the Transformative Justice Committee going. Jeff Paterson also resigned the board

Transition Committee Report, Susan: The website needs some updating. Mike Ferner and Shelly have made some changes already. The revised personnel handbook should be ready in time for next meeting. A major task for the Transition Committee is finding someone to replace our interim director with someone of permanence.

Mike Dempsey requested that the National make hardcopies of the Newsletter available. Mike Ferner indicated that Shelly can fill particular orders from the chapters and members.

Mike Dempsey also asked if VFP has any way to get the VFW's Buddy Poppies paper poppies. There is no time for this year, but perhaps for next year. Paul suggested he contact the National WW1 Museum for access to either Buddy Poppy paper poppies, or Flanders Poppy seeds.

Next Meeting: June 17, 2023, 10:40 am PT, 12:40 pm ET.

Adjournment 2:50 pm ET

Submitted by Paul Cox

Appendix 1

Interim Director report for 5/4/23 Transition Committee meeting

Activities since 4/10/23

Convention
Emailed and phoned Mike Marion x3 re: logo
Called tech volunteer to help with daily uploads to Youtube
2 Convention Committee meetings

Misc.
Set up phone and Ring Central
Sent 140 emails in response to general inquiries and ongoing work
Numerous emails and phone calls re: VFP4Ukraine
Numerous calls with Susan
Participated in
10 staff meetings
1 S.E. Regional chapter meeting
1 Transition committee meeting

1 Meeting with Shelly and potential database vendor
1 Board meeting
1 Golden Rule meeting
2 Excom meetings
1 New Members meeting

Finance:

- 2 calls with Jim Driscoll re: funding proposals
- 3 lengthy calls with members re: phoning project
- 2 calls with Matt Southworth re: phoning project
- Emailed all members of VFP advisory board; phone calls with two; drafted letter for Chris Hedges; he and Matt Hoh submitted appeal letters to send to members
- 2 calls with CT members re: CBD soda fundraiser
- Sent introductory email to 420 people on personal email list, 7 responses, halfway through sending reminder notices
- Pulled names and contact info from survey results of 5 people to help with calling
- Intro letter sent to members and personal friends has brought in about $10k

Communications:

Sent out 1 e-news blast to members and supporters
Minor updates to web site
Posted latest Ukraine statement
Emailed Brian Trautman x2 re: helping with social media posts
Reviewed Gamers web site with Shelly
Sent SOVA Call to Action
Reviewed newsletter draft with Becky
Drafted news release on Sasabe playground project
Responded to 4 requests for endorsement

Activities from 5/5 to 5/20/23

<u>Meetings</u>

6 staff meetings

1 Finance

1 Membership Committee meeting

3 Excom

1 Board

1 Golden Rule

<u>Emails</u>

Finance/Development related: 29

Endorsement related: 8

General membership related: 7

Advisory Board: 3

Board related: 7

Personnel: many
Communications: 18
VFP projects: 11
Convention: 18

<u>Phone Calls</u>
Finance: 6
Advisory Board: 2
VFP projects: 3
Personnel: many
Endorsements: 2
General membership: 5
Staff related: 8
Communications: many
Board related: several

<u>Fundraising/Development:</u>

- *May 22 1pm e.t., kickoff meeting for "Dialing for Dollars" project. 10 VFP volunteer callers. Assisted by: Matt Southworth, former VFP board member; Bob Rhudy, retired non-profit/development manager, met VFP via G.R. visit to Chesapeake Bay region*
- *Expired sustainer calls from Paul and Ken*
- *Proposal from Jim Driscoll re: Ukraine war activism*

<u>Membership:</u>

- *Membership report May 2023*
  - *New: 25 this month*
  - Total: 2121 (may not be complete count)
  - Lapse in last year: 1481
  - Lapsed in last 2 months: 136
  - Renewed this month: 33
  - Donors new this month: 46

Next meeting this will be graphed.

<u>Communications:</u>

- *Edited Communications staff person's job description and circulated an ad for it to board, VFP listserve, 80+ personal contacts. We can fill this position as soon as we get a qualified candidate.*
- *Latest newsletter (screen share)* https://www.veteransforpeace.org/files/8616/8433/7175/VFPNews_2023.Spring-FULL_SMALL_FIN.pdf?emci=aa887c54-05f4-ed11-907c-00224832eb73&emdi=a7245a13-baf5-ed11-907c-00224832eb73&ceid=12148202

Finance:
Mike T.— please graph revenue and expenses for the last 18 mos. for next meeting.

Personnel: *Several lengthy phone calls with Paul re: editing employee manual and several sessions of editing it personally.*
Questions for the Board: 1) *Moving some videos out of VFP "cloud" storage. Do you want the posted to Youtube? 2) Monthly report re: Peace in Ukraine coalition activities/plans?*

Request from Ray McGovern: My April 25 talk reflects a major effort to assemble the facts -- 'just the facts, Ma'am' -- on one important – but largely unknown – issue. Given the importance of the Board – AND the issue – I thought I should make a special effort to inform you of it and, if you wish, suggest that Board members have a look at it. **https://raymcgovern.com/2023/05/03/if-the-missile-fits-beware/**

--END ED RPT—

APPENDIX 2

Veterans For Peace is hiring: Communications Coordinator

Veterans For Peace is looking for someone who can combine the skills needed for the job with enthusiasm for VFP's mission, a national organization with chapters across the U.S. that has exposed the true costs of war and militarism since 1985.

The position starts at half time and may expand to full time. This is a remote position, flexible hours, coordinated with regular online staff meetings. Compensation TBD.

Skills needed are:

- Proficiency in graphic programs including Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, Adobe InDesign on a Mac and/or PC, Zoom webinar platform, MS Office, G Suite, Canva, Wix and Wordpress
- High attention to detail, quality and consistency for all projects
- Well organized and detail-oriented
- Good written and oral communication skills

Veterans For Peace is committed to a diverse and welcoming workplace. Veterans have a high priority for this position.

Those interested may apply by sending a letter of interest, resume and sample of work to vfpemployment@veteransforpeace.org

Veterans For Peace
3407 S. Jefferson #219
St. Louis, MO 63107
314-725-6005

–END–

Veterans for Peace
Board of Directors Meeting
April 15, 2023
Minutes

PRESENT: President Susan Schnall, VP Mike Wong, Treasurer Mike Tork, Secretary Paul Cox (joined late). **Board Members:** Ellen Barfield, Ken Mayers (joined late), Jeff Paterson, Enya Anderson, Gerry Condon, Mike Dempsey. **Staff:** Interim Director Mike Ferner, Office Manager Shelly Rockett. **Excused Absences:** Nick Mottern, Jeremiah Knowles, Brian Trautman

Members: Phil Josselyn, Stephanie Atkinson, Steve Morse, Roger Erlich, Gene Marx, Lee Vander Laan, Mike Caggiano, Jim Driscoll, Alan Batten, Michael McPhearson, Helen Jaccard, Gerald Hasset

12:40 pm ET, Meeting opened for member comments:

- VFP Statement of Purpose and Code of Conduct videos were played.
- Gerald Hasset asked why a notice was just sent out about the meeting so late. Gerry Condon suggested a week's notice on list serves.
- Gerry Condon said Golden Rule reached out to Congress in DC by distributing hard copies of VFP's Nuclear Posture Review to every congressperson and senator.

Call to Order: Board of Directors Meeting, 12:56 pm ET
Checkins: were made by Board members.
Board Minutes, March 25, 2023: Approved
Agenda, April 15, 2023: Approved

Finance and Fundraising Committee, Mike Tork: We have $21,060 in checking and $28,689 in reserves, so payroll and other expenses are covered for now. Garett has received his final pay and benefits. The Zinn fund holds $29,914, restricted. Mike T, Mike F, and staff are exploring pros and cons of the EveryAction system. Mike F got many positive responses to his letter, including members who want to help with fundraising. Mike F thanked Shelly for all her good work.

Interim Director, Mike Ferner: He thanked ExComm and Ken Mayers for help in transitioning in as ED. He sent out a letter to members, got 50 - 60 responses, most of them supportive. Answered some questions some folk asked. Also sent out E-Blast announcing his taking temporary directorship.

Convention Committee, Susan Schnall: The Convention Committee is excited to announce our theme this year is **Choose Peace: Stand Up! Speak Out!** The convention will be August 25-26-27, online, once again. Early Registration = $110 through end of May, regular = $125, and other alternate registrations pricing. We have replaced concurrent and conflicting workshops with single sessions, 6 total. The convention will start Fri afternoon with Jenny Pacanowski, the Business meeting on Saturday, and more sessions on Sunday.

We have had huge successes with our virtual conventions in the past few years with increased attendance and the opportunity to hear from speakers from around the globe. We are also happy that hundreds of our members and guests can join us in gathering without the environmental impacts (and costs and health risks) of traveling. There are many international issues that need our attention and being able to connect globally will be advantageous.

The Committee is busy at work thinking through speakers and everything that goes into creating a great experience for our members. We are working to repeat the success we had in creating opportunities for connecting in social ways and discussion rooms as well and we appreciate all the time folks took in filling out our evaluation form last year.

We will be updating the website in the coming months with more information, which will include options on how to learn and navigate the convention technology. We will do our best to make sure that everyone who wants to participate will be able to have the technological support needed. Stay tuned for more details!

EveryAction, Ken Mayers: EA has assigned a "Success Manager" to work with us, but we have not yet met with him. The membership database is not in good shape and will spend a lot of time trying to fix what we have, but if we cannot get it to work, we may need to change database providers, which is a lot of trouble and expense.

Membership Committee, Ken Mayers: MC met last week, and Jules provided much useful information about what she does. Eventually the committee will try to be able to establish a set of new queries. Also, Board members have been assigned a list of 10 chapters to call; we hope to establish which chapters are functional and to what degree. Board members will need to follow up.

Golden Rule, Helen Jaccard: GR is halfway through its Geat Loop, and is in DC. They have gotten 21 newspapers articles, 9 TV pieces, and 10 radio spots in 13 stops on the East Coast with approximately 1500 attendees. Income in the last few months has exceeded $7k with similar expenses and has $35k in bank. They spent 2 days walking the Hill delivering **VFPs Nuclear Posture Review** to every Senator and Congressperson and discussing **H Res 77:** ***Embracing the Goals and Provisions of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons*** **and H Res 2775:** ***To direct the United States to sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and to convert nuclear weapons industry resources and personnel to purposes relating to addressing the climate crisis, and for other purposes***. For the text of these two bills, go here. Helen will make a full report at May meeting.

Transition Committee, Susan Schnall: So far, the Transition Committee has met Mar 19, Mar 26, and Apr 9 to work for a smooth transition. Two ENews blasts to members have gone out. The committee has developed a finance report, a fundraising plan, and worked on a staffing plan, communications plan, reviewed the usage of our office space, and is reviewing the effectiveness and problems with EveryAction. The TC has been working closely with Mike Ferner and National Staff. Mike Ferner related that the "hello" letter that he sent out to friends has approached $8,000 in donations.

ExComm, Susan Schnall:

- **Support for Kucinich request for congressional investigation into Nord Stream bombing**: Gerry read the draft statement. Motion Ellen Barfield, second Mike Wong to accept as originally written. Passed 5, 4. Seeking a consensus, motion Gerry Condon, second, Mike Wong to change statement to incorporate Jeff's objections. Vote passed: 8, 1, 1 Approved statement attached as Addendum 1.
- **VFP Statement on Ukraine**: Motion Ellen, second Gerry to accept statement. Jeff asserted that there are pro-Russian factual errors such as the assertion that there was a coup in 2014 instead of a mass appeal revolution. Mike Wong expressed support for the statement and took issue with Jeff's example about the coup. Vote Passed:8,1,0. Attached as Addendum 2

- **VFP Ukraine Working Group/Caucus:** Motion Paul Cox, second Mike Wong*: "The VFP Board denies the creation of a "Veterans For Peace For Ukraine Caucus"; that any further use of or references to the "Veterans For Peace For Ukraine" or variations thereof cease; that those members be notified that they are not authorized to use the "Veterans For Peace" or "VFP" name or logo in that fashion; that there is no such entity as Veterans for Peace For Ukraine Working Group or Caucus and that is not a function of nor does it represent the position of Veterans For Peace and should be taken down."*

  Discussion: Mike Dempsey expressed his support for the motion and that the VFPFU logo and website should be taken down wherever posted. Gerry said there are four wars going on in Ukraine (1-continuation of the war started by Ukraine in 2014; 2-war by Russia on Ukraine; 3-civil war in Ukraine; 4-proxy war on Russia by US/NATO), and depending on which one you look at, you come up with different positions, and it's OK to have different opinions within VFP. In this regard, VFP has steered a good path. Jeff said VFPFU is a caucus and can continue, and to dismiss them in this fashion is undemocratic. His personal belief is that VFP is being held hostage by conspiracy thinkers and we need to not subject ourselves to fringe thinking. He further stated that the use of the logo in this fashion is exactly the same as used by others previously, and that VFP is mostly old guys and a Vietnam Veterans social club. Susan reiterated that the purpose of the motion is to deal with caucus/working group that usurps the VFP name and logo. Further, VFP might have approved a Ukraine Working Group, but not a VFPFU started without board approval or even discussion, and in violation of our stated position on the wars and our Statement of Purpose. Mike Wong reiterated that is not Jeff's opinions on the Ukraine War but his actions within VFP that are unacceptable. Mike Dempsey said using our logo in this way is not OK, the Board has right to deny formation of a caucus; moreover, he does not appreciate Jeff's characterization of us as old vets. Mike Tork expressed that Jeff did not follow what was discussed and objects being called a Vietnam veterans social club. Gerry would not support Jeff's activities and would not support granting them a working group or caucus since their behavior has been to usurp and work around the board's decisions. Vote passed: 8-1-0.

Next Board Meeting: Sat May 20, 2023 via Zoom:
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89723572749?pwd=VzhFeENZQm9ZY2x1RW10b0RCVkFQZz09

Adjournment 11:8 am PT
Submitted by Paul Cox

APPENDIX 1:

VFP Statement on the bombing of the Nord Stream Pipeline, Adopted 2023-04-15

If the bombing and destruction of the Nord Stream pipeline last September was conducted by the United States, it was an unconstitutional act of war. It was also an environmental catastrophe of unprecedented proportions, releasing an estimated 500,000 metric tons (1.1 billion pounds) of methane gas, a greenhouse gas 84 times more destructive than CO^2.

A congressional investigation to determine who is responsible for the operation is warranted.

President Biden's own statements predicting the end of Nord Stream a few days prior to the attack point to the necessity of determining whether or not the president was speaking from his singularly informed position as the Chief Executive.

Veterans For Peace wholeheartedly supports former Congressman Dennis Kucinich's demand (below) for a thorough and transparent investigation to uncover all the facts related to this monumental crime. The U.S. public and the entire peace-loving world would benefit from revealing the full truth behind this deplorable and dangerous event.

Veterans For Peace agrees with Kucinich when he says; "If the Administration, as has been charged by a veteran investigative journalist, did indeed conspire to blow up the Nord Stream pipelines, it marks a radical shift in the use of the presidential war power, a usurpation of the role of Congress and, unless checked, could lead to further reckless
decisions that put us on an irrevocable path toward World War III."

--end--

APPENDIX 2:

VETERANS FOR PEACE STATEMENT ON UKRAINE Adopted 2023-04-15

Veterans For Peace is an organization of military veterans and allies whose collective efforts are to build a culture of peace by using our experiences and lifting our voices. We inform the public of the true causes of war and the enormous costs of wars, with an obligation to heal the wounds of wars.

As the fighting and dying in Ukraine continues with no visible end we at Veterans For Peace are calling on the American people, President Biden and the Congress to end this evil and terrible war against humanity.

We call for an end to the suffering of Ukrainian civilians under siege, and the damage to millions of refugees. We are calling for a congressional investigation into the destruction of the Nord Stream pipelines and the militarization of Europe. We must stop the war-related food shortages in Africa and war's devastation of the environment, of all living things, leading to the existential threat of climate catastrophe.

We are angry about the waste of resources for health care, social services, adequate housing and education needed here at home that instead are used for death and destruction abroad. We are especially alarmed by the growing possibility of a nuclear war, which could bring a horrifying end to all living things on this planet.

In the face of these compounding disasters and threats, the world's people are confronted by the apparent readiness of Russia, Ukraine, the US and NATO to continue this war.

Veterans For Peace has consistently expressed our opposition to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. War is never an answer, especially in our age of nuclear proliferation. And we remain opposed to U.S./NATO moves that set the stage for this war: surrounding rival Russia with hostile military forces and nuclear weapons systems; supporting the 2014 coup in Ukraine and attacks on Russian-speaking populations in eastern Ukraine. The Biden administration has escalated this war by sending more and more lethal weapons to Ukraine, while blocking negotiations that might have ended hostilities earlier. The U.S. is pursuing its own war against Russia, if not to defeat it militarily, then to "weaken Russia," as stated by U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin.

As veterans who have experienced the carnage of war, we feel great empathy for the young soldiers on both sides of this bloody war, who are being killed and injured in the tens of thousands. We know all too well that the survivors of armed conflict will be traumatized and scarred for life.

We demand urgent, good faith diplomacy to end the war in Ukraine, not more U.S. weapons, advisors, and endless war. And certainly not a nuclear war. We want those billions of dollars going for climate correction, jobs, healthcare and housing, not for the profiteers who manufacture weapons for death and destruction.

As soldiers who participated in U.S. wars in Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan and Iraq, we support war resisters, including Conscientious Objectors, draft resisters, deserters and all who refuse to participate in killing other human beings. We encourage U.S. military personnel to examine their consciences and refuse to participate in training, arming, advising or directly engaging in this and other wars of empire. The U.S. must end its many interventions and withdraw our troops from over 850 military bases around the world. We demand an end to the alarming U.S. preparations for war with China.

It is time to drop the weapons, embrace diplomacy and peace. For the people of Ukraine, the people of Russia, the people of Europe, the United States and China. For the children, for the civilians, for the soldiers, for all living things: We demand diplomacy, not war. We demand Peace in Ukraine.

--end—

Veterans For Peace
Board of Directors Meeting
March 25, 2023
MINUTES

PRESENT: President Susan Schnall, VP Mike Wong, Treasurer Mike Tork, Secretary Paul Cox. ED Garett Reppenhagen. Board Members Jeff Paterson, Ken Mayers, Nick Mottern, Jeremiah Knowles, Brian Trautman, Mike Dempsey. Excused absence: Enya Anderson

VFP Members: Andy Berman, Ellen Davidson, Tarak Kauf, Ellen Barfield, Carl Mirra, Ellen Barfield, Gerry Condon, Fred Ptucha, Dave Logsdon, Nancy River, Stephanie Atkinson, Gerald Hassett

Statement of Purpose, and Code of Conduct: Videos played.

Open meeting 9:46 PT, 12:46 PT: Comments by members:

Fred Ptucha: Chapter 71 has dedicated 35 peace poles in 5 years in the neighborhood. Read "Peace Pledge" that students are reciting in many schools.

Carl Mirra: Was a war resistor and "sometime member of VFP". He advocated for the proposal on FVPFU, and asked if there is there a contradiction in having working groups on Russia and China, but not on Ukraine?

Gerry Condon: Thanked VFP chapters and members who have supported GR, which just left Norfolk, headed for DC (April 2-17). At one event while there, April 12, they will deliver copies of VFP's Nuclear Posture Review to each congressperson and senator.

Dave Logsdon: Curious about VFP National financial situation. His chapter has donated $1,000 and he will personally donate $100. He urged all members who can to donate $100 to do so. Tarak will also donate $100. Susan will take the proposal up to the NYC chapter.

Call to Order: 10:03 am PT.

Agenda: Motion Nick Mottern, Second Jeff Paterson to approve. Passed

February 18th Meeting Minutes: Motion Ken Mayers, Second Michael Dempsey to approve. Passed.

Board Vacancies, Susan Schnall: we have had two board vacancies open in the last month: Stephanie Atkinson and Louis both resigned citing other commitments. ExComm recommends Ellen Barfield for one of the positions. By way of introduction, she was in the army deployed to West Germany and South Korea and has been an active member of VFP for many years. She served on the board until 2008 and was VP during her tenure. She founded the Philip Berrigan Chapter 105 in Baltimore. She has been to Palestine and has been VFP's UN representative for several years. Ken Mayers moved that Ellen be confirmed. Vote: seven in favor, two abstentions.

ExComm recommended Gerry Condon for the other open position. He was a resistor and deserter during the Vietnam War, has served on the Board and was president for two years. Has is the chair of the Golden Rule Committee. Gerry expressed that he is happy to serve again at this critical time. Vote: eight in favor, two abstentions. Passed

Finance and Fundraising Report, Mike Tork: we currently have $19K in checking, and one pay period remaining in this month and two next month at about $8.1k each, including taxes, etc. We have $21k in savings and $5k in Edward Jones. We also have bill from our auditor. Paul Cox is trying to reduce insurance costs and has made some minor headway. Others are looking at grant writing. Becky Luening is now helping F&F comm in searching for grants.

Executive Director's Report, Garett Reppenhagen: We had a good March with the individual fundraising email and have taken in about $20k for the month. All board members now have Zoom log-in capabilities. He warned that scheduled meetings should be put on staff calendar and be careful about not leaving too much in Zoom's cloud storage. The EveryAction tutorial meeting was helpful, to give Board members a look at how it works. A recording of the meeting is available for those who are interested. Shelly will help board find how to, for example, put together SUBUNT reports. And she will create user accounts for interested board members. Garett will be working with interim ED on Monday and with assist with IEDs meeting with staff on Tuesday. He will attend World Beyond War event today as the last time he will be representing VFP as ED. Thanked everyone for their hard work and the hard years. He suggested another fundraising appeal by end of March. Emailed survey this week has produced 46 (out of 300 so far) volunteering for Membership, and 7 for Finance and Fundraising.

Convention Committee Report, Susan Schnall: Committee has met and made necessary early decisions: We will shorten convention dates to August 25-27, to center around anniversary of the Kellogg-Briand Treaty of 1927. The theme this year will be Peace! Stand Up, Speak Out! The Business Meeting will be Saturday August 26 with the with keynote speaker that evening. The keynote has not been selected. Everyone is welcome to join committee. The next meeting will be 1 pm PT, 4 pm ET, this Tuesday, March 28.

Transition Committee Report, Susan Schnall: Committee met on March 12 and 19, and is using Garett's transition plan as a basis. There are major outgoing expenses upcoming $3.2k for insurance, $3.5 for EveryAction, Garett's accrued vacation-time payment. EveryAction continues to be a problem for tracking membership. There are vacant chairs for Personnel and Strategic Planning. ExComm

recommends that Strat Planning function as the Transition Committee for the next few months. Google Docs archives and ownership transition is an issue. Shelly has copies of all our contracts.

Also, the Transition Comm and ExComm recommend Mike Ferner as Interim ED (IED). By way of introduction, he was a Corpsman at Great Lakes during the Vietnam War, where he turned against the war and became war resister. He Joined VFP in 1985. He has been an organizer for AFSCME, and later AFL-CIO. He traveled to Iraq in 2003 with Kath Kelly, joined board in 2008 and was IED for 10 months and he set up the Howard Zinn Fund. Mike: There are tough times ahead: financial troubles. He will be coming out with changes for our national office staffing and organization and will present a plan for generating revenue. Our politics have always been radical and turbulent, as we all would expect. Hopes to come out of this within the next few months with a viable organization. Looking forward to working with us. Nick thanked Mike for stepping up. Jeff thanked Mike F for taking this on but will abstain since he is the second youngest member of Board at 55 years old which is problematic for the organization. Mike F responded that we are all concerned with this. Susan indicates that we are all concerned about the future of VFP and the need to recruit younger members. Ken stated he was privileged to be on board with Mike F previously, and while Mike F is also getting long of tooth, he will do an great job as IED. We hope to get a younger vet as a permanent replacement. Ken moved, Ellen second, to nominate Mike Ferner as interim Executive Director: Vote 10 in favor, 2 abstentions. Mike has drafted an introductory note to members. He will ask for pay at an annual rate of $10,000.

Request to form a Ukraine Working Group, Jeff Paterson: there is a faction within VFP trying to find the right avenue to express solidarity with the suffering in Ukraine, and is asking Board recognition of the title Veterans For Peace For Ukraine Working Group. They intend to promote "a just, moral, and legal resolution to Russia's invasion and occupation of Ukraine, and to providing material aid to the victims of that war and:

- Amplify progressive Ukrainian-centric perspectives on the war
- Promote a progressive post-war reconstruction without austerity measures
- Advocate for a secure and peaceful post-war coexistence between all parties involved
- Acknowledge that "Russia out of Ukraine" is the most direct route to peace."

The not-yet-approved working group had a webinar yesterday with 55 attendees. Speakers included Steven Zunes, Professor at USF; Yosh Pshyk, Feminist Workshop; and Vladyslav Strarodubtsev, Democrat Socialist (Kviv), as a first action and there will be others.

Susan Schnall indicated that the ExComm recommended approval for a working group with the title, "Ukraine Working Group" as the other working groups are titled, but not the "VFP For Ukraine" title. Also, the ExComm opposed the VFPFU flag that Jeff and others have been broadcasting that incorporates colors of the Ukrainian flag and sunflowers (the national flower of Ukraine). The ExComm also expects goals that repeat or restate elements of the VFP Statement of Purpose, as do our other projects and working groups.

Motion Jeff, second Jeremiah, for a vote on the proposal, as presented: Discussion: Nick does not support the proposal for name or flag colors because we should not take sides. We should oppose the war altogether. Mike Wong supports a Ukraine Working Group using our normal colors on the logo. Also, this faction declared themselves a working group and took actions without coming to the board first. The China WG does not fly the Chinese flag and opposes war with China. The US is pushing for a war with China, and if they get what they are pushing for, it will put the Ukraine war in the shadows. If the working group were to format itself as the other working groups do, he would support. Jeremiah had some feedback about standing the group up prematurely but does not think the timing of their proposal is inappropriate. The European war has a clear aggressor and a clear victim, and he does not see a contradiction. There are several examples of modified logos within VFP. Susan: We have two VFP statements about Ukraine war that give our organization's perspective and condemn the Russian invasion, but the name, and the colors are not OK. There is support for a Ukraine Working Group that will function

as do the other working groups. Ken asked to see the actual proposal (it was not put up). Gerry indicated that there are four distinct wars now in play. 1) 2014 coup, encouraged by the US followed by rebellion and civil war in Donbas and Crimea. 2) Russian invasion of Ukraine. 3) NATO proxy war. 4) US-Russia war (e.g. Nord Stream Pipeline sabotage). VFP has consistently called for diplomacy not war. Even the slogan Russia Out has become a rallying cry by the US and NATO for more weapons to Ukraine. Susan has worked since she has been on the board for unity on moving forward, but this is a setback. Jeff stated he can count the votes and knows his proposal will lose, but VFP has a reputation as providing a platform for speakers justifying the invasion of Ukraine, so we have put ourselves in a controversial spot. Policies and Procedures acknowledged Working groups, but also gives the board the right to veto it. If we are looking for a compromise, there is room for that. Mike Tork is for a working group but is opposed to this proposal. Susan thinks that the board is in favor of a 'Ukraine Working Group. Vote on Jeff's proposal: 2 In favor, 9 opposed, 1 abstention.

Jeff then announced that a Veterans For Peace For Ukraine Caucus will form with the same intentions and guidelines as the working group proposal. Policies allow for the Board to veto such a formulation. Paul called it a divisive stunt. Gerry, regrettably, suggested that the board must veto. Ken related that the Code of Conduct allows members to speak as members of VFP but not for VFP. He recommended we have a separate meeting conforming to the Transformative Justice Committee's pattern and recognized that the room has its opinion in opposition to Jeff's position, but that membership may have other opinions. Nick stated that if negotiations are a true goal, using the symbolism of Ukraine is a non-starter. Mike Wong did not understand why the name and colors are so important. Jeff responded that VFP has the reputation as a platform for apologists for Russia such as Tarak's Peace and Planet News, that pushes a pro-Russian line, while Ukraine didn't do anything to deserve the invasion. VFP took a neutral position when some of our members aligned with neo-fascists on the February 19 demonstration. The whole point of this discussion is: is there a place in VFP to apply to this situation? Susan stated that the board, she thinks, supports a working group on Ukraine, but VFP should not align itself with Ukraine. Our first position should be for negotiations--for diplomacy. Ellen stated she would support them if they lose the flag. Jeremiah agreed with most of what Jeff has said, but there is always room for compromise. He also pointed out that VFP members have worn pro-Palestinian shirts.

Motion Gerry, second Ellen, to veto Jeff's caucus. Nick urged that we respect each other and be kind to one another. Ellen related that there are many other uses of our logo that use the black and white flag, but not those colors. Ken was hesitant to veto the caucus but does not think that a caucus can speak for VFP. He urged the caucus to not put things out that give the impression that it speaks for VFP. **Motion to table for April meeting:** passed unanimously.

Next Meeting: April 15, 2023
Adjournment: 1:55 am PT, 2:55 ET
Respectfully submitted by Paul Cox

Veterans For Peace
Board of Directors Minutes
Saturday, February 18, 2023

PRESENT: President Susan Schnall, VP Mike Wong, Treasurer Mike Tork, Secretary Paul Cox, Executive Director Garett Reppenhagen, Stephanie Atkinson, Jeremiah Knowles, Louis Raprager, Nick Mottern, Ken Mayers, Michael Dempsey, Enya Anderson. Excused Absences, Brian Trautman and Jeff Paterson

MEMBERS PRESENT: Virginia Druhe!!! Gerald Hassett, Denny Riley, Gerry Condon, Rachel Clark, Charles Powell, Bob Keilbach, Tarak Kauf, Alan Batten, Anthony Donovan, Ellen Davidson, David Cooley, "RELAX"?, William Northrup, David Cooley

Meeting convened at 9:44 with showing of Code of Conduct and Statement of Purpose videos.

MEMBER COMMENTS:

- **Denny Riley:** when Code of Conduct is violated what happens? Jeremiah responded as chair of Transformative Justice Committee.

- **Gerry Condon:** Looking forward to a great year for VFP. Endorsement commitment about the RAWM rally tomorrow, debates indicate how involved so many of us are, and we will quickly move beyond it.

- **Tarak Kauf:** Thinks the 20 minute limit for public comment may be insufficient, especially when so much is used for the Code of Conduct and SOP videos. Also he is upset by some of the comments made through public sources. Jeremiah put the Transformative Justice contact Susan indicated that we can go longer on the opening questions, and at the end of the meeting.

- **Gerald Hasset:** Why doesn't office send out notices to everyone? Garret indicated that the link is on the E-News, always the same link, and other sources.

- **Nick Mottern:** doesn't get the E-News and would like for those issues to be addressed. You can sign up for E-News here: https://action.veteransforpeace.org/a/enews-signup

Meeting convened: 1:05 ET. Agenda: Accepted. **January Minutes:** Accepted

Finance and Fundraising Report, Mike Tork: 2023 tasks: 1) will review current budget quarterly. F&F is reviewing Zinn Fund to revise terms. F&F will increase Sustaining Donors campaign. Our goal is to replenish our savings/cushion. We are procuring grant research help part time. Our current budget is $425k compared to last year's $485k. During 2022, there were 16 F&F Committee meetings, far more than in previous years. As of Feb 17, we have $28k in checking and $29k in restricted funds. We are headed for the lean early-in-the-year months. Susan asked for board members to volunteer with fundraising: Mike D. Steph, Ken, Jeremiah, Mike W, Louis Raprager, Gerry Condon volunteers.

Executive Director's Report, Garett Reppenhagen: Our monthly expenses are approximately $30k. By end of Feb, we may need to make some staffing changes, and we should prepare to have fewer staff. Personnel Handbook should be ready by next meeting. We met budget for last year, but are likely going into a slump. ED and Ellen Barfield are in the process of securing UN passes, with two youth passes to go to Code Pink staffers. Staff has fixed the dues glitch in EveryAction. Chapter rosters will now include 10-years of past members to rosters, so chapters can have access to those older members to appeal to them to rejoin. ED's report includes a draft Next Gen Plan. Susan agreed that we need to reach out to both younger and older veterans, but covid has had a negative effect on recruiting.

Membership Committee Report, Ken Mayers: Thanked Garett for Draft Next Gen plan. Mike Dempsey: Contacted chapters, but could not add it to Google Docs list. Ken and Garett will assist.

Golden Rule to Cuba Delegation, by Enya Anderson and Gerry Condon: Gerry: Enya, Anthony, Helen, Gerry and Captain Kiko Johnston-Kitizawa were on trip Dec 31-Jan 10. From Sep-Dec sailed down Mississippi and Ohio, then Tombigbee and Mobile Rivers, then Gulf to Key West when they realized that, if they also went to Cuba from Key West, there would be an opportunity to remind people of the long history of troubles inflicted on Cuba by the US. Currently Americans can travel to Cuba without special visa as long as its stated purpose is for "educational and cultural exchange". The Golden Rule had 12-person delegation—5 on boat, and 7 who flew in, and they participated in daily arts and cultural education programs. The visit was low key at first, but after several days ECAPP organized a well-attended press conference and the trip was at the top of the Cuban news that night; they were the celebs the rest of the trip. The also visited the hurricane damaged area and made a symbolic donation of recovery aid. Six people crewed the trip back. On return, they expected ICE to search boat and give them trouble, but it did not hassle them. Delegation is putting together slide show of trip, and Peace and Planet News webinar is planned for March. Proposing VFP organize an official trip to Cuba for later this year. There is an exodus of Cubans, primarily by young people who are unsure of their future. Mexican President has declared campaign to get US to lift its sanctions and embargo of Cuba after more than 60 years. Costs for trip were: $1600 for 8 days, all in, plus airfare. $75-100 for visas. Total cost was approx. $2,500/person including airfare.

Enya: Voyage to Cuba was great and Cuban people who saw the boat understood its history. We need to get out to more educate Americans about that history; the GR is a good ambassador. He appreciated the unity within the crew. Nick asked if GR is planning to go to Hampton Roads? Gerry didn't know off hand, but said the GR is going to stop at many naval bases and if it is not on the itinerary, it can be added. For example, they just sailed through Kings Bay base in SC. Also indicated that GR gets lots of local support. FMI, Facebook: Golden Rule Peace Boat.

Request to Support expansion of Philadelphia VA Program on Moral Injury, Nick Mottern: At 2022 Convention, Chris Antol, Chaplain at Philadelphia VA, has a program on Moral Injury with Kelly Borhaul. Would like to put a statement in the E-news. In the long term, they would like to expand their program to other VAs. They will be applying for a National Endowment for Humanities grant in the future to expand the program. Asking VFP to put their pitch in our E-News. Nick will send the statement to the Board, too.

Status of Board Committees, Garett and Susan (Appendix 1)

Convention Planning for 2023: Committee recommended Convention to be held virtually August 25-27 (Kellogg Briand Anniversary is 26th). Ken also mentioned that we might encourage regional meetings/ satellite meetings. Stephanie suggested the West Coast regional meeting is this coming Monday and may be a place to start planning such events. We have a number of suggestions for themes: please send your suggestions to Samantha Ferguson, samantha@veteransforpeace.org , or put them in the Google Docs HERE.

VFP Statement re: February 19th Coalition demonstration in Washington, DC: Susan explained that we were never asked to endorse the Rage Against the War Machine demo. While no one had differences with the 10 demands of the RAWM demo, there are large disagreements within VFP over the organizations that created it and controlled it. Since we are a large and complex organization with significant disagreements over this event the Board chose to neither endorse nor condemn it. It is the job of the Board and ExComm to be responsible to the entire organization, and the responsible decision was to take no position on the demo, while supporting both our members and chapters who chose to attend or chose to not attend. We encourage our chapters and individual chapters to show up if they desire, but as a national organization we cannot take a position in favor or opposition. Mike Wong: as a board we recognize the diversity of opinions within VFP chapters and members. Susan Schnall: we have changed the wording of our statement to remove words 'capitalism' and 'imperialism'. Ken: recognizing that there is no such thing as a "perfect statement", he motioned, second Mike Tork, to accept statement as altered. Motion passed without opposition. Stephanie indicated that she hopes that we support the Answer Demo on March 20—anniversary of Iraq War. Susan reiterated that Garett has the authority to endorse or sponsor other organizations' statements or actions.

Next Meeting March 18, 2023.

Adjournment 2:26 pm ET

Post Meeting Comments by members:

- **Tarak Kauf:** Complimented Susan for the way she runs the meeting.

- **Gerry Condon:** Complimented Board for a positive and efficient meeting.

- **Paul Cox:** George Johnson memorial today, George Johnson Memorial Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84687623568 Meeting ID: 846 8762 3568

- **Stephanie Atkinson**: coordinating with Gary Butterfield in San Diego around air show protests, including how air shows pollute. Video link: https://www.veteransforpeace.org/take-action/climatecrisis in the Climate Crisis and Militarism page on the VFP website about militarism's broad environmental damage.

- **Ken:** plugged Ray McGovern on the Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity's 2022 letter to Biden: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XXTgpfXRgxA&t=1134s

- **Tarak**: plugged PPN: https://peaceandplanetnews.org/

- **David Cooley** mentioned the lawsuit over the applicable laws of the Nation of Hawaii. He has contacted the Hawaii Chapter for connection to that issue. Gerry mentioned the robust sovereignty movement in Hawaii that puts out a daily digest of that struggle.

Appendix 1: Board Committee Assignments, 2023:

Enya Anderson: Membership, Strategic Planning, Delegations

Stephanie Atkinson: Finance and Fundraising, Strategic Planning
Paul Cox: Finance and Fundraising, Ad Hoc Advisory Board, Personnel
Michael Dempsey: Membership Committee, Golden Rule liaison
Jeremiah Knowles: Chair, Transformative Justice Committee
Ken Mayers: Chair, Membership; Finance and Fundraising, Delegations
Nick Mottern: Membership
Jeff Paterson: Liaison/chair Communications Committee, By-Laws Committee, Policies
Louis Raprager: Chair, Personnel Committee; Strategic Planning, Finance and Fundraising
Susan Schnall: All Committees
Brian Trautman: Communications Committee, Strategic Planning Committee
Mike Tork: Finance and Fundraising Committee
Mike Wong: Transformative Justice Committee

National Projects Liaisons:

Climate and Militarism: **open**
Vietnam Full Disclosure: **Susan Schnall**
Golden Rule: **Michael Dempsey**
Deported Veterans Advocacy: **Jeremiah Knowles**
Korea Peace Campaign: **open**
Iraq Water Project: **Mike Tork**
Courage to Resist: **Jeff Paterson**
Save Our VA (SOVA): **Paul Cox**
Vietnam Agent Orange Relief and Responsibility Campaign: **Paul Cox and Susan Schnall**

Working Groups Liaisons:

Be the Change Book Club: **Ken Mayers**
China: **Mike Wong**
Military Trauma: **open**
Nuclear Abolition: **Ken Mayers**
Russia**: open**
SOAW (School of Americas Watch): **Mike Tork**
Ban Killer Drones: **Nick Mottern**
Homeless Veterans: **Michael Dempsey**

Respectfully submitted, Paul Cox, Secretary

Veterans For Peace
Board of Directors
Saturday, January 21, 2023
Minutes

Opening: Videos of Statement of Purpose, and Code of Conduct – 09:55 am PT

Call to Order of VFP Board Meeting with audio recording of a poem by Jenny Pacanowski: 10:05

PRESENT: President Susan Schnall, VP Jeremiah Knowles, Finance Officer Mike Tork; Board members Louis Raprager, Jeff Paterson, Steph Atkinson, Ken Mayers, Mike Wong, Brian Trautman, Mike Dempsey, Mike Tork, Nick Mottern; Executive Director Garett Reppenhagen. Absent Secretary Josh Shurley: Paul and Steph will take the notes.

MEMBERS: Charles Powell, Denny Riley, Ellen Davidson, Hal Muskat, Jim Driscoll, Tarak Kauff, "iphone", Doug Rawlings, Eduardo Cohen, David Hempel, Fredy Champagne, Phil Josselyn.

CHECKINS:

APPROVAL OF Dec 17, 2022, MINUTES: Motion Nick, 2d Ken. Passed

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion made and seconded Approved.

Welcome to new Board members: Stephanie Atkinson, Brian Trautman, Mike Wong; welcome back: Louis Raprager: 10:15

"I, <state your name>, do solemnly swear to uphold the Veterans For Peace Statement of Purpose, and to fulfill my responsibilities and obligations to the organization as a national Board of Directors member to the best of my abilities. I will work nonviolently with other Board members to foster the growth, integrity, and well-being of the finances, membership, and chapters so that we may fulfill our mission of abolishing war." Pledge taken by all new directors.

Board introductions: Existing members and Executive Director Reppenhagen introduced themselves to the new members.

President Schnall expressed thanks to board members who have just left the board, Adrienne Kinne, Ben Shrader, and Josh Shurley. 10:32

Board election of officers, Chaired by Jeff Paterson**:**

President: Susan Schnall was only candidate, unanimously affirmed
Vice President: Jeremiah Knowles nominated by Susan, unanimously affirmed.
Secretary: Paul Cox and Steph Atkinson: each made a candidate statement and left the room: for board discussion and vote: Paul elected 7-4. Following vote, Jeremiah Knowles resigned as Vice President. President Schnall announced that an election will be held the following Saturday to choose a replacement for the VP position
Treasurer: Mike Tork nominated and accepted, unanimously affirmed. 11:12 am

Finance Report, Treasurer Tork: We currently have $50k in checking $21k in savings. So far $60k has been donated through Roger Waters' appeal. Pond Fund grant's matching fund requirements have been met for about $10k. Our accounting firm is still slow in returning monthly reports. Treasurer Tork has reminded board members of individuals' fiduciary responsibilities. Committee will meet soon.

Executive Director's Report, ED Reppenhagen: no report: he is on vacation.

President's Report: President Schnall reminded returning board members to return 2022 evaluations, and recounted VFP Board accomplishments for 2022:

- Bylaws change to include an associate member on the board.
- Year-end appeal included Roger Waters putting it on his website.
- Reverend Barber at convention.

- Peace and Planet News has been very active and attended many of Waters' concerts.
- Revived Zinn Fund with grants to Chapter 93 in Seattle for their Waging Peace exhibit and to SOVA for their advocacy on behalf of veterans who use the VA. The Excomm has taken charge of Zinn grant decisions.
- Jeremiah's great work with community circles and Transformative Justice committee work.
- Signed updated MOU with Golden Rule. Also GR Great Loop project is going well, and Jan 1 to 10 trip to Cuba was successful. Mike Dempsey will give a full report at the Feb meeting.
- Jenny Pacanowski was voted by the board to be VFP's first Post-911 and first woman veteran Poet Laureate.
- Challenges for coming year include improving Social Media—Communications and database access and use
- Orientation of new members was heldJan 12. See appendices 1-3 for Board Expectations, bylaws amendments for 2023, and committee descriptions

Adjournment: 11:30. Meeting to be reconvened on Saturday Jan 28 to elect Vice President and approval of Committee Chairs and Board Member assignments.

Saturday January 28, 2023
Reconvened meeting:
Continuation of
January 21, 2023
VFP Board Meeting Minutes

PRESENT: President Susan Schnall, Treasurer Mike Tork, Secretary Paul Cox; BOARD MEMBERS: Enya Anderson, Nick Mottern, Ken Mayers, Jeff Paterson, Jeremiah Knowles, Stephanie Atkinson, Brian Trautman, Mike Wong, Louis Raprager. EXCUSED ABSENCE: Mike Dempsey.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tarak Kauf, Denny Riley, Ellen Davidson, Gerald Hasset, Rachel Clark, Gene Marx.

Meeting opened at 1:04 pm ET.

Statement of Purpose and Code of Conduct: President Schnall requested that reading or video be stipulated. Passed without opposition

Agenda: 1) Elect a Vice President, and 2) approve the Board Committee composition and chairs, and Project Liaison assignments.

1. **Vice President:** President Schnall opened nominations for Vice President. Ken Mayers nominated Mike Wong, who accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations. Mike Wong was elected with Jeff Paterson, Stephanie Atkinson, and Jeremiah Knowles abstaining.

2. **Committee/Project Liaison Assignments:** Motion Mike Wong, second Nick Mottern, to accept Board Committee and Project Liaison assignments suggested by President Schnall,

excluding assignments for Personnel Committee. Discussion resulted in the following change: Louis Raprager requested to be relieved as board liaison to the Climate Crisis and Militarism Project. Accepted without opposition or abstentions. Personnel Committee composition suggested by President Schnall: Chair Louis Raprager, members Paul Cox, Jeremiah Knowles, Enya Anderson, Ken Mayers, and Nick Mottern. Motion Ken Mayers, second Enya Anderson to accept. Motion passed without opposition with Jeremiah Knowles abstaining. Committee and Liaison Assignments as follows:

Board Committees:

Enya Anderson: Membership, Strategic Planning, Chair Delegations
Stephanie Atkinson: Finance and Fundraising, Strategic Planning
Paul Cox: Finance and Fundraising, Ad Hoc Advisory Board, Personnel
Michael Dempsey: Membership Committee, Liaison Golden Rule
Jeremiah Knowles: Chair Transformative Justice, Personnel
Ken Mayers: Chair Membership; Finance and Fundraising, Delegations
Nick Mottern: Membership
Jeff Paterson: Liaison/chair Communications, By-Laws, Policies and Procedures
Louis Raprager: Chair Personnel; Strategic Planning, Finance and Fundraising
Susan Schnall: All
Brian Trautman: Communications, Strategic Planning
Mike Tork: Finance and Fundraising
Mike Wong: Transformative Justice

National Projects:

Climate Crises and Militarism: OPEN
Full Disclosure: Toward an Honest Commemoration of the American War in Vietnam: Susan
Golden Rule: Michael Dempsey
Deported Veterans Advocacy: Jeremiah Knowles
Korea Peace Campaign: OPEN OPEN
Iraq Water Project: Mike Tork
Courage to Resist: Jeff Paterson
Save Our VA (SOVA): Paul Cox
Vietnam Agent Orange Relief and Responsibility Campaign: Paul Cox and Susan

Working Groups:

Be the Change Book Club: Ken
China: Mike Wong
Military Trauma: OPEN OPEN
Nuclear Abolition: Ken Mayers
Russia: OPEN OPEN
SOAW (School of Americas Watch): Mike Tork
Ban Killer Drones: Nick Mottern
Homeless Veterans: Michael Dempsey

Adjournment 1:15 pm ET

Next Board meeting: February 18th, 2023

Respectfully submitted, Paul Cox Board Secretary

APPENDICES, 1-4: Jan 21, 2023, Board Meeting

1. VFP Board Member Expectations:

The collective responsibilities of the Board are described in the VFP Bylaws and Policies; the following expectations are a guide to individual member responsibilities:

1. Be familiar with the VFP Bylaws and Policies
2. Attend monthly VFP Board meetings.
3. Support and participate in fundraising efforts for: **Funding the organization.** The board is responsible for the continued funding and financial health of the organization. **Maintaining fiscal accountability.** The board approves and closely monitors the organization's expenses and income. The board oversees the organization's resources (including the time of volunteers and staff) are used appropriately, and ensures that the organization has enough money to operate.
4. **Participation in board activities.** The board has monthly zoom meetings. Please let the President of the Board know when you are unable to attend.
5. Chair and/or actively serve on Board committees
6. Participate in the planning for the VFP National Convention
7. Be available to membership for questions and concerns about VFP
8. Be a strong voice in promoting VFP at the national and local level
9. Actively participate in financial oversight
10. Support Board decisions
11. Acknowledge the Code of Conduct

2. Veterans For Peace Bylaws Amendments 2022 Ballot

Create an associate member Board of Directors position 2

Welcome veterans with "bad paper" discharges 3

Update resolutions process and master index 4

Simplify nomination of Board of Directors 5

Allow default customs in relationship to Robert's Rules 6

Fully allow electronic meetings 7

Require supermajority for any membership restriction 8

Narrow funding limitations with actionable guidance 9

Allow all members to vote for all Board of Director candidates 10

Allow all members to vote on bylaw amendments 11

3. Descriptions of Committees

Awards Committee
Charged with developing the annual award categories, criteria and nominating procedures, found in the Awards section, plus recommending award recipients to the Board.

Bylaws Committee
Charged with ensuring that the bylaws meet the evolving needs of the organization. To this end, and in accordance with our Bylaws and Policies, the committee will:

1. Receive proposed amendments or suggestions from a member, a chapter, or the Board. 2. Study, draft, or redraft proposed amendments as appropriate.
3. Make a recommendation to the Board as to their disposition.

4. Periodically review the bylaws to identify needed amendments, or rescissions.

Communications Committee
Charged with promoting VFP and bringing visibility and recognition to VFP actions and principles. Involved in oversight of VFP communications as well as monitoring the publication of VFP materials (e.g., VFP Newsletter, VFP papers, etc.).

Convention Committee
Charged with the planning and organization of the annual convention. The membership of the Convention Committee changes with each convention but will include at least representatives from the previous year's convention, the current year's convention, the upcoming year's convention, the Executive Director and the President.

Delegations Committee
Charged with assisting our members in organizing and applying for Board approval of all VFP U.S. sponsored delegations, and making a recommendation to the Board regarding approval.

Finance and Fundraising Committee
Charged with creating strategies that will develop the financial strength of the organization (e.g., major donors, foundations, mailings, planned giving and special events), and supporting and assisting the treasurer by reviewing professional accounting reports and giving advice on investments and disposition of endowment. The committee is chaired by the Treasurer and consists of at least that position, the President and Executive Director.

Membership and Chapter Development Committee
Charged with supporting individual members and chapters. Membership support: building an outreach campaign and supporting new and existing members to include orientation of independent members and connecting members to local chapters. Chapter support: assist in the chartering, formation, and ongoing support of VFP chapters and providing support and assistance to reinvigorate inactive chapters. Staff provide direct assistance to the committee by verifying veterans' status, providing reports, and issuing charters and related paperwork. Due to the intense workload of

this committee, it shall include a steering committee made up of two members of the Board of Directors (chair and co-chair of the committee), two members of staff (the executive director and membership coordinator) and one member at large as appointed by the President of the Board of Directors. Additional members can serve to help support the committee's goals as needed.

Nominations Committee
Charged with identifying qualified members to run for election to the Board of Directors, as required by VFP Bylaws and will perform its duties as described therein.

Personnel Committee
Charged with hearing grievances (see Grievance Procedures), and making recommendations to the Board regarding personnel policies and staffing. The committee is also charged with developing evaluative criteria for the Executive Director and ensuring that periodic evaluations are completed. The Personnel Committee shall be composed of 2 or more board members.

Resolutions Committee
Charged with facilitating the resolutions procedures as described by the bylaws and developing any other necessary procedures, found in the section on Resolutions.

Strategic Planning Committee
Charged with developing, overseeing, and updating VFPs national strategic plan and evaluating its effectiveness. The strategic planning committee shall be comprised of members of the Board of Directors, staff, and VFP members, and will elicit input from the broader Board, staff, and membership. The strategic plan will be subject to the approval by the full Board of Directors and the Full Board will review the committee's recommendations at least twice a year, if not quarterly. This committee does not replace working groups or national projects, or the activities of chapters, but will be the guiding document for national VFP activities.

Transformative Justice Committee
Charged with overseeing the internal health of the organization, to include continued exploration of Transformative and Restorative Justice, updates to the Code of Conduct based on member input, and investigating complaints and grievances about members and chapters. Because of the sensitive nature of this committee's work, this committee will be composed of members with a specific background in restorative justice, misconduct/harassment investigations, social work, or other applicable areas. The committee shall work to ensure that our Code of Conduct and Misconduct/Harassment policies and procedures are transparent and serve the needs of our community.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Cox, Board Secretary